

# THE WRITINGS OF GEORGE WASHINGTON FROM THE ORIGINAL...

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GEORGE WASHINGTON  
BICENTENNIAL EDITION  
THE WRITINGS OF  
GEORGE WASHINGTON



The Committee of the Continental Congress  
 do hereby order that the Continental Army  
 be disbanded on the 18th of October 1783  
 and that the soldiers be sent home  
 with their respective families  
 and that the Congress be adjourned  
 until the 1st of November 1783  
 at Philadelphia  
 in the City of Pennsylvania  
 the 11th of October 1783  
 John Hancock  
 President of the Continental Congress

ORDER FOR DISBANDING THE CONTINENTAL ARMY, OCTOBER 18, 1783

*THE WRITINGS OF*  
**George  
Washington**

from the  
**Original Manuscript Sources**  
1745-1799

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Prepared under the direction of the UNITED STATES  
GEORGE WASHINGTON BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION  
and published by authority of CONGRESS

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JOHN C. FITZGERALD, *Editor*

**Volume 27**  
June 11, 1783 - November 28, 1784

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United States  
Government Printing Office  
Washington



UNITED STATES ARMY, OCTOBER 18, 1883

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## TABLE OF SYMBOLS

The following symbols have been used to denote the place of deposit of Washington letters not found in draft or letter-book form in the *Washington Papers* in the Library of Congress:

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Virginia State Library	[V.S.L.]

THE WRITINGS OF  
GEORGE WASHINGTON

# THE WRITINGS OF GEORGE WASHINGTON

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TO REVEREND JOHN RODGERS

Head Quarters, June 11, 1783.

Dear Sir: I accept, with much pleasure your kind Congratulations on the happy Event of Peace, with the Establishment of our Liberties and Independence.

Glorious indeed has been our Contest: glorious, if we consider the Prize for which we have contended, and glorious in its Issue; but in the midst of our Joys, I hope we shall not forget that, to divine Providence is to be ascribed the Glory and the Praise.

Your proposition respecting Mr Aikins Bibles<sup>1</sup> would have been particularly noticed by me, had it been suggested in Season; but the late Resolution of Congress for discharging Part of the Army, takg off near two thirds of our Numbers, it is now too late to make the Attempt. It would have pleased me, if Congress should have made such an important present, to the brave fellows, who have done so much for the Security of their Country's Rights and Establishment.

I hope it will not be long before you will be able to go peaceably to N York; some patience however will yet be necessary; but Patience is a noble Virtue, and when rightly exercised, does not fail of its Reward. With much Regard etc.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Rodgers's letter (May 30) suggested that Congress present each soldier with a Bible. This letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>2</sup> The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

## TO LUND WASHINGTON

June 11, 1783.

[Extract]

I do not blame you for the wages which you gave Evans;<sup>a</sup> I have no doubt of your having engaged him upon as good terms as you could, and as it was my wish to have the work forwarded, this was all I had a right to expect.

In one of your letters (speaking of the difficulty of getting workmen) you recommend it to me to engage some of the Enemy who were prisoners with us; many of whom you say are good workmen. Why, let me ask, when they hired themselves by the authority of Congress, and, comparatively speaking, were in your own neighbourhood, would you not do this for me? None of them were within 300 miles of me, and most of them were within from 55 to 80 miles of you. But you seem to have had an unconquerable aversion to going from home; one consequence of which, is, I expect I shall lose all my rents; for in a letter, I have lately received from my brother John in Berkeley, are these words; "I fear you are suffering *greatly* in your rents, as I am informed many of the Tenants are gone into the Western country; and understand there are many years arrears of rent due to you." In divers Letters, at divers times in the course of the three or four last years, have I mentioned this matter to you, and the necessity of visiting them; but cannot find by any of your letters, that you have ever been amongst them more than once; and then I believe only partially. I expect also, that all the money I have expended on the Mill on Yohoghaney, and all the property which has been put into the hands of Gilbert Simpson will be sunk for want of *proper* endeavours to bring him to account. But if your own wages,

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<sup>a</sup> John Evans.

since the charge of them in the Acct. rendered at Valley Forge, has not been received by you in the specific articles of the Crop; which does not appear by the Accots. you have lately rendered to me; I shall be more hurt, than at any thing else, to think that an Estate, which I have drawn nothing from, for eight years, and which always enabled me to make any purchase I had in view, should not have been able for the last five years, to pay the manager: And that, worse than going home to empty coffers, and expensive living, I shall be encumbered with debt. It is disagreeable to me, because I dare say it will be so to you, to make these observations; but as my public business is now drawing to a close, I cannot avoid looking towards my private concerns, which do not wear the most smiling countenance.

I am sorry that Barry's Land has at last slipped thro' my fingers. If the purchaser made it with a view to *rent* it to me, he shall be disappointed; nor shall any *Tenant*, or *himself*, if he proposes to live on it, reap the *smallest* benefit from my fencing and other improvements; without which, the place is of no value to any but me. This the purchaser must have known, and as his aim must have been to take advantage of my wishes to add this small piece of Land (surrounded as it is) to my Tract; let him abide the consequence of his interference; especially as it was well known, I wanted to take no advantage of Barry, having offered to leave the price to three *disinterested* men, of his own choosing, to fix. I am, etc.<sup>4</sup>

### TO BARON VIOMÉNIL

Head Quarters, Hudson River, June 11, 1783.

Dear Sir: Your Congratulations on the glorious and happy Prospects of Peace, which were conveyed to me in your Letter

<sup>4</sup>From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

of the 25th. of March, were exceedingly gratefull to me and met a most agreeable Welcome.

Pleasing as it is to me, My Dear Baron, at all Times to hear from you, this favor was rendered peculiarly so, by the Event which introduced this happiness: an Event, in the Attainment of which you have performed a noble Part; whereby you have contributed largely to the Establishment of this rising Empire, and to yourself have secured a lasting Fund of Glory.

You will permit me My Dear Baron to return to you and the Brave Officers of your generous Nation, all the kind wishes you have been pleased to express for me, and to assure you and them, that the Hand of Time must bear its full Weight upon me, before the Recollection of their persons, agreeable Friendships, Merits and Services, will be obliterated from my Mind. With the warmest Attachment etc.<sup>5</sup>

#### TO CAPTAIN ELIJAH HUNTER

Head Quarters, June 11, 1783.

Sir: To your Letter which was recd sometime in the Month of March last I have now to reply in writing, as I did then to a part of it verbally; but I must first make an apology for the long delay, and assure you it was owing to the accident of its being mislaid among a multitude of other papers, and not to any designed neglect or inattention.

The happy pacification which has been announced since the writing of your letter will now establish you in the quiet enjoyment of your possessions; and supercedes the necessity of my saying any thing except as to the point of light in which I viewed your political Character at the time when you was employed in a confidential manner. On this head I can (from my

<sup>5</sup> The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.



best recollection) be thus far explicit. The Recommendations given in your favor by Mr. Jay then President of Congress and Major General McDougall were such as induced me to repose great confidence in you, and to my own knowledge, after being employed in the manner abovementioned you obtained such intelligence, either by yourself or your Correspondents, of various things which passed within the British Lines, as was of considerable consequence to us. Under this recollection of circumstances I cannot hesitate to Certify, that I thought at the time and still conceive your services were of such an interesting Nature as entitled you to the good opinion and favorable Notice of your Countrymen. I am &c.<sup>o</sup>

**\*To CHARLES CROOKSHANKS & COMPANY**

Newburgh, June 11, 1783.

Gentn: The Inclosed is a copy of my last, since which I have been favored with your Letter of the 18th. of May from Baltimore; I have to thank you for your care of the Wine which was consigned to you by Messrs. Scarle & Co of Madeira for my use. I beg leave to repeat my wish that they may be sent to my House in Virginia agreeably to the direction contained in the Inclosed.

Your offer of the freight I consider as a mark of very polite attention, but wish, Gentlemen, you would not deprive yourselves of the benefit arising from your Vessell. I shall pay it with great pleasure at the same time I render you many thanks for the trouble you have had in this business. I have the honor etc.

PS. Please to draw on Mr. Lund Washington for the Duty and it will be immediately paid.

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<sup>o</sup>The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

## \*TO CLEMENT BIDDLE

Newburgh, June 11, 1783.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 28th of May in answer to my Letter of the 15th. of the same Month, is at hand. I shall rely upon your care and attention for the purchase of the Articles mentioned in the latter; Those most wanted, and which are most essential to me are the Blankets and Ticklinburg for my Negroes, and these are not in *immediate* demand.

Apropos, did I not when the Army was leaving the Cantonment of Middle Brook, in June 1779, put a Theodilite into your care to be conveyed to Mr. Rittenhouse<sup>7</sup> to receive some repairs? It is like a dream to me; You, or Mr. Irskine,<sup>8</sup> I am not sure which undertook this business; and I have not heard since what was done with the Instrumt. Will you be so good as to enquire whether it ever reached Mr. Rittenhouse, and to prevail on him to afford it the necessary repairs without delay if he has it.

My Complimts, in which Mrs. Washington joins, is offered to Mrs. Biddle, and I am etc.

## GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, Wednesday, June 11, 1783.

Parole Albany. Countersigns Newburgh, New Windsor.

For the day tomorrow { Lt. Colonel Commr. Brooks.  
Adjutant Haskell.<sup>9</sup>

For duty tomorrow the 7th Massach. Regimt.

As soon as all the men engaged for the War shall be furloughed, and the Troops that remain properly formed into

<sup>7</sup>David Rittenhouse.

<sup>8</sup>Robert Erskine.

<sup>9</sup>Capt. Elnathan Haskell.

Regiments and Corps, Major General Heath will be pleased to report a state of the formation of the troops in this Cantonment, in which will be comprehended the names and relative rank of the Officers, regimentally digested. Major General Knox will please to do the same with respect to the troops under his command.

The Levees will be discontinued after this day and the orders are to be received and issued in the same manner as was formerly practised.

### GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, Thursday, June 12, 1783.

Parole Wales. Countersigns Norway, Denmark.

For the day tomorrow { Colonel H. Jackson.  
Adjutant Davis.<sup>10</sup>

The 4th. Massachusetts regt. is for Duty tomorrow.

### TO THE SECRETARY AT WAR

Head Quarters, June 12, 1783.

Dear Sir: I have the Honor to transmit to you, Copies of a Memorial<sup>11</sup> of Sundry Officers of the Invalid Regiment, and the Opinion of a Board of Inspection, on their several Cases; which you will be pleased to lay before Congress for their Consideration and Determination.<sup>12</sup> With great Regard etc.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>10</sup> Lieut. John(?) Davis, of the Fourth Massachusetts Regiment.

<sup>11</sup> A copy of the memorial is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, no. 149, vol. 3, fol. 33; the original, dated June 6, 1783, is in the *Washington Papers*. A copy of the opinion of the Board of Inspection is on folio 41, and the original, dated June 10, is in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>12</sup> Lincoln transmitted the papers to Congress, as requested, June 16; they were referred to Oliver Ellsworth, Alexander Hamilton, and Richard Peters. This committee was changed to James McHenry and Peters (July 23), and James Duane was added July 30.

<sup>13</sup> This letter, in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr., is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, no. 149, vol. 3, fol. 37.

## GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, Friday, June 13, 1783.  
Parole Newark. Countersigns, Burlington, Willmington.  
For the day tomorrow { Lt. Col. Comt. Mellen.  
  Adjutant of the 3d. Regt.  
For duty tomorrow the 3d. Massacht. regiment.

## TO THE SECRETARY AT WAR

Head Quarters, June 14, 1783.

Dear Sir: The inclosed paper relative to the Services and Claims of Captn Goodale<sup>14</sup> was handed, to me by Brigd Genl Putnam, With a Wish that it might be laid before Congress. It is now more than two Months since that Application was made by me; has it been submitted to Congress? or am I to suppose that it is forgotten or neglected?

Something peculiar appears in Capt Goodales Case and his pretensions being founded entirely on the Idea of Merit, I am desirous they may be represented in a favorable Light; should Congress, from a Consideration of his Services, compared with their established principles of promotion by Merit, think proper to grant the promotion Captn Goodale challenges, I have no Objection to make.

I wish Congress would be pleased to take up the proposal made to you by my Letter of the 1st of April last; it would give much satisfaction to many Officers who are impatiently waiting

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On June 13 Humphreys wrote to Capt. John Pray, ordering him to turn in the waterguard boats to the Quartermaster General; "if the Sergt. and five men you mention are good Oarsmen they may be employed in the General's Barge, otherwise they may join their Regts. At any rate, you can send them with their characters to Head Quarters." Humphreys's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>14</sup>Capt. Nathan Goodale, of the First Massachusetts Regiment. He served to November, 1783.

a decision; should that proposal be complied with, it would include Capt Goodale, and perhaps supercede the Necessity of a particular Determination. I am &c.<sup>15</sup>

### TO GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, June 14, 1783.

Sir: In conformity to Mr Izard's request I take this liberty to inclose to your Excellency a Letter from Mrs. Delancey<sup>16</sup> to him, discribing the outrages which have been committed in the County of West Chester. I am well assured that every species of licentiousness and disorder hath and will meet with your displeasure; and I have therefore informed Mr Izard what measures have been taken for the prevention of irregularities in future, and the establishment of Civil Government again in that District.

Inclosed you will find a Note from your old acquaintance Mr Rivington, and the Papers alluded to therein will be delivered to you by the same conveyance.<sup>17</sup>

### GENERAL ORDERS

Saturday, June 14, 1783.

Parole Anapolis. Countersigns Baltimore, Harford.

For the day tomorrow { Colonel Tupper.  
  Adjutt. from the 6th regimt.

For duty tomorrow the 6th. Massachusetts regt.

<sup>15</sup>The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

<sup>16</sup>Mrs. Peter (?) Delancey (Elizabeth Colden).

<sup>17</sup>The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. The following concluding paragraph is crossed off in the draft: "Perhaps the amusement contained in them will be increased by so conspicuous a proof the returning politeness of one of your subjects who has been a man of no small notoriety *during the whole Rebellion*, and who has been so remarkably distinguished for his regard to veracity, that his humble protestation of attachment can not at this time be disputed."

Such Officers as are not attached to any particular Corps, who may choose to remain in Camp in consequence of the orders of the 6th instant, will be pleased to report their names, Rank and the regimt. to which they lately belonged, to the Adjutant General by the 17th. instant.

The Arrangement of the different Corps being fixed, all officers not comprehended therein, whose baggage remains to be transported, are to report their names, Ranks, quantities of baggage and the States Counties and towns to which they are destined, to the Quarter Master Genl. by tomorrow evening.

### TO RALPH IZARD

Head Quarters, June 14, 1783.

Sir: I have transmitted to Governor Clinton the Letter of Mrs. Delancey, which you was pleased to inclose to me.

The Acts complained of were committed at a Time when neither civil or military Government existed in that part of the Country, and while Measures were concerting for their Re-establishment under American Laws and Polity; those enormities, being totally abhorrent to my Disposition, as soon as they were made known to me, I communicated to the Governor, who is equally disposed to preserve Peace and good Order.

The Chief Justice of the State, supported by a Regiment of Continental Troops, is now administring Justice in that County; since his Arrival there, I believe no Outrages like what Mrs. Delancy complains of, have been experienced; And I hope e'er long, that good Order and Regularity of Government may prevail in that distressed Country. I am &c.<sup>18</sup>

<sup>18</sup>The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

On June 14 Washington forwarded a copy of Sir Guy Carleton's letter of June 10 to him to Congress in a brief note. Carleton had written:

"I cannot, Sir, but be well satisfied, that Congress has transmitted the case, concerning certain negroes for whose protection the publick faith had been pledged, (but which

## \*TO JOHN AUGUSTINE WASHINGTON

Newburgh, June 15, 1783.

My dear Brother: I have received your favor of the 12th. of April from Berkley, and am obliged to you for the Acct. contained in it of our deceased Brothers<sup>19</sup> affairs. I have since heard that his Widow survived him but a little while. I am also obliged to you for taking upon you the direction of my mother's Interest at the little Fall Quarter, which I believe has been under most wretched Management. equally burthensome to me, and teasing to her.

In answer to the question you have propounded to me, respecting our Nephew Ferdinand, I must observe to you, that the *presumption* is, for I cannot speak with certainty, that our

is considered by Congress as contrary to the true intent and meaning of the provisional articles of peace) to it's plenipotentiaries in Europe, as those Gentlemen and the King's Ministers, between whom those articles were negociated, may be considered as most competent and able to ascertain their true intent and meaning; and, swayed by these considerations, I have already for my own part, referred to the King's Servants those points wherein I judged, that, on your side the true intent and meaning of this treaty has not been preserved, and in particular the consideration of those impediments which have been found in the execution of the 5th. and 6th. articles, even in cases where the stipulations contained therein are absolute, both in meaning and expression, but whose effect has been opposed, both by laws now subsisting in the different States, and by the resolves of different bodies of men who seem to act without control, and to have the means of execution in their own hands; and with respect, Sir, to the stipulations in the same articles, which have been thrown into a recommendatory form, I have been discouraged from renewing my applications thereon, by letter from Mr. Livingston the Minister for foreign affairs, of so early a date as the 12th of April, which seems to refer me for their execution to some future time. I entertain however the fullest confidence, that Congress will take the best and surest, as well as most speedy means of giving to this treaty all that efficacy which shall not only be perfectly consistent with justice and equity, but with that spirit of conciliation, which I hope and trust will universally prevail." Carleton's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

On this same day (June 14) Humphreys wrote to Heath, that the Commander in Chief approved "the Arrangements of the Reformed Regts and Corps in this Cantonment." Humphrey's draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

Also, on this same day (June 14), Trumbull wrote to Col. Walter Stewart, respecting promotions made by Brig. Gen. Hazen, for making which that General had no authority. "The promotions you mention are therefore to be disregarded in the Muster, until Genl Hazen can satisfactorily explain this Conduct." Trumbull's draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>19</sup>Samuel Washington. He died in Berkeley in 1781.

Navy, if it can be called one, will be laid up, or otherwise disposed of; consequently there can be no birth for Ferdinand there. It follows then, that there is only the other alternative of getting him on board a Merchant Ship, and this, possibly, may be the best of the two; your knowledge, together with that of his mothers friends, of the Trade, and Trading people of Virginia (where his Connections and Interest lyes) will point him much better than I can do, to the proper channel for employment.

I wait here with much impatience, the arrival of the Definitive Treaty; this event will put a period not only to my Military Service, but also to my public life; as the remainder of my natural one shall be spent in that kind of ease and repose which a man enjoys that is free from the load of public cares, and subject to no other Controul than that of his own judgment, and a proper conduct for the walk of private Life.

It is much to be wished (but I think a good deal to be doubted) that the States would adopt a liberal and proper line of Conduct for the Government of this Country. It should be founded in justice. prejudices, unreasonable jealousies, and narrow policy should be done away. competent powers for all *general* purposes should be bested in the Sovereignty of the United States, or Anarchy and Confusion will soon succeed. Liberty, when it degenerates into licentiousness, begets confusion, and frequently ends in Tyranny or some woeful catastrophe, and to suppose that the Affairs of this Continent can be conducted by thirteen distinct Sovereignties, or by one without adequate powers, are mere solecisms in politicks. It is in our United capacity we are known, and have a place among the Nations of the Earth. depart from this, and the States separately would stand as unknown in the World and as contemptable (comparatively speaking) as an individual County in any



one State is to the State itself; and in others perhaps, has never been heard of and would be as little attended to but for the sport of Politicians to answer their sinister views, or the purposes of designing Courts, if they should grow jealous of our rising greatness as an Empire, and wish to play off one State against another. We are a young Nation and have a character to establish. It behoves us therefore to set out right for first impressions will be lasting, indeed are all in all. If we do not fulfil our public engagement, if we do not religiously observe our Treaties. If we shall be faithless to, and regardless of those who have lent their money, given their personal Services, and spilt their Blood; and who are now returning home poor and pennyless; in what light shall we be considered? and that there is but too much reason to apprehend these, none who see the daily publications, and will attend to the c[onduct] of some of the States, can har[dly] have any doubt of. so far therefore as the claims of the Army are concerned, and the Half pay or commutation of it is to be effected, I have suffered Extracts of Original Papers, in my possession, to be published; to shew the justice, æconomy, and even the necessity that Congress were under of granting this, to keep the Army in the Field at so early a period as 1778. One of these I herewith send you.

My love, in which Mrs. Washington joins me, is offered to my Sister and your family; present my Complimts. to all enquiring friends, and be assured etc.

\*TO MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE

Newburgh, June 15, 1783.

My dear Marqs: You are too well acquainted with the merits of Colo. Gouvion to need my testimony either of his Services, abilities or worth; and yet, my wish to see them rewarded,

induces me to repeat and even to impress them upon you. I dare not take the liberty of bringing this officer directly before Monsr. the Count de Segar,<sup>20</sup> but if the communication of my ideas of his deserts and my desire to serve him would contribute to procure him the Smiles of that Minister I should have no objection to their being offered in any manner your prudence shall dictate.

We remain here in a listless state, awaiting the arrival of the definitive Treaty; the uncertainty of wch. added to the great expence of subsisting the Army, have induced Congress to Furlough (which, in the present case is but another term for discharging) all the Soldiers who stood engaged for the War. This Measure, tho' extremely distressing to the Officers on acct. of their want of pay has been effected without any disorder and with less discontent than could possibly be expected. The three years Men have been formed into Corps and will remain at West Point and in the Vicinity of it till the Treaty arrives and Congress shall have determined on a Peace establishment for this Country. The former, will put a period to my Military Services and carry me back to the Walks of private life. and to that relaxation and repose which cannot but be grateful to a Mind which has been on the stretch for more than Eight Years, great part of wch. it has been embarrassed by a variety of the most perplexing circumstances.

Colo. Gouvion will give you a Pamphlet,<sup>21</sup> containing a compilation of Original Papers which I have suffered the publication of to shew the Origin; the œconomy, the Justice, and even the necessity of the Half pay, or Commutation of the Half pay, to the Officers of this Army which some of the States have been opposed to. the greatest part of these Papers accomd. one of my

<sup>20</sup>Philippe Henri, Marquis de Ségur, Minister of War of France.

<sup>21</sup>"A Collection of Papers. . . . Printed by Samuel Loudon M,DCC,LXXXIII," previously noted.

late lettrs to you; but they will now appear in a more connected form.

As I have little expectation that Gouvion will find you in France but much of seeing you hear soon, I shall add no more to this letter than my best respects to Madam De la Fayette and my blessing to your little progeny.

With the greatest attachment etc.

### GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, Sunday, June 15, 1783.

Parole Brunswick. Countersigns Princetown, Amboy.

For the day tomorrow Lt. Col. Comdt. Sprout.

Adjutant from the 2d. regt.

For duty tomorrow the 2d. Massachusetts regiment.

As soon as the furloughing of the officers and Men who retire from the field in consequence of the Resolution of Congress published in the orders of the 2d. instant is compleated and the incorporation of those who continue in service has taken place, (in order to prevent irregularity and confusion) the furloughed officers, Noncommissioned officers and soldiers are to be discontinued on the returns and Muster rolls, and their Settlements. made from the rolls by which they were last Mustered.

Regimental Returns are to be made to the Orderly office, as soon as the incorporation has taken place.

### GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, Monday, June 16, 1783.

Parole Albany. Countersigns Poughkeepsie, Haverstraw.

For the day tomorrow { Lt. Colo. Comdt. Reid.  
                                  { Adj. of the Hampshire.

The Hampshire Detachment is for duty tomorrow.

At a General courtmartial held in Philadelphia the 22d. May by order of the Secretary at War Lt. Colo. Robertson president. Lieutenant John Armstrong of the 3d. Pennsylvania regt., charged with evading his duty and behaving unbecoming the character of an officer and gentlemn. in his illiberal expressions concerning the officers who exhibited the above charges was tried.

On consideration it clearly appears to the Court, that the charges exhibited against Lt. Armstrong are not supported, therefore do acquit him with honor.

The Commander in Cheif approves the opinion of the Court.

### TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, June 17, 1783.

Sir: I have the honor of transmitting to your Excellency for the consideration of Congress, a Petition<sup>22</sup> from a large number of Officers of the Army in behalf of themselves, and such other Officers and Soldiers of the Continental Army as are entitled to rewards in lands, and may choose to avail themselves of any Priviledges and Grants which shall be obtained in consequence of the present solicitation. I enclose also the Copy of a Letter from Brigr. General Putnam<sup>23</sup> in which the sentiments and expectations of the Petitioners are more fully explained; and in which the ideas of occupying the Posts in the western Country will be found to correspond very nearly with those I have some time since communicated to a Committee of Congress, in treating on the subject of a Peace Establishment. I will beg leave

<sup>22</sup>This petition, dated June 16, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, no. 42, vol. 6, fols. 62-71.

<sup>23</sup>A copy of Brig. Gen. Rufus Putnam's letter of June 16 is filed with this letter from Washington in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*. The original is in the *Washington Papers*.

to make a few more observations on the general benefits of the location and Settlement now proposed; and then submit the justice and policy of the measure to the wisdom of Congress.

Altho' I pretend not myself to determine, how far the district of unsettled Country which is described in the Petition is free from the claim of every State, or how far this disposal of it may interfere with the views of Congress; Yet it appears to me this is the Tract which from its local position and peculiar advantages ought to be the first settled in preference to any other whatever and I am perfectly convinced that it cannot be so advantageously settled, by any other Class of Men, as by the disbanded Officers and Soldiers of the Army, to whom the faith of Government hath long since been pledged, that lands should be granted at the expiration of the War, in certain proportions agreeably to their respective grades.

I am induced to give my sentiments thus freely on the advantages to be expected from this plan of Colonization, because it would connect our Governments with the frontiers, extend our Settlements progressively, and plant a brave, a hardy and respectable Race of People, as our advanced Post, who would be always ready and willing (in case of hostility) to combat the Savages, and check their incursions. A Settlement formed by such Men would give security to our frontiers, the very name of it would awe the Indians, and more than probably prevent the murder of many innocent families, which frequently, in their usual mode of extending our Settlements and Encroachments on the hunting grounds of the Natives, fall the hapless Victims to savage barbarity. Besides the emoluments which might be derived from the Peltry Trade at our Factories, if such should be established; the appearance of so formidable a Settlement in the vicinity of their Towns (to say nothing of the barrier it would form against our other Neighbours) would be

the most likely means to enable us to purchase upon equitable terms of the Aborigines their right of preoccupancy; and to induce them to relinquish our Territories, and to remove into the illimitable regions of the West.

Much more might be said of the public utility of such a Location, as well as of the private felicity it would afford to the Individuals concerned in it. I will venture to say it is the most rational and practicable Scheme which can be adopted by a great proportion of the Officers and Soldiers of our Army, and promises them more happiness than they can expect in any other way. The Settlers, being in the prime of life, inured to hardship and taught by experience to accommodate themselves in every situation, going in a considerable body; and under the patronage of Government, would enjoy in the first instance *advantages* in procuring subsistence, and all the necessities for a comfortable beginning, superior to any common class of Emigrants and quite unknown to those who have heretofore extended themselves beyond the Apalachian Mountains; they may expect after a little perseverance, *Competence and Independence* for themselves, a pleasant retreat in old age, and the fairest prospects for their Children. I have the honor etc.<sup>24</sup>

### GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, Tuesday, June 17, 1783.

Parole Jersey. Countersigns Elizabethtown, Middlebrook.

For the day tomorrow { Colonel M. Jackson.  
Adjutant Bowles.<sup>25</sup>

For duty tomorrow the 1st. Massa. regiment.

<sup>24</sup> In the writing of David Humphreys. The letter was read in Congress on July 1 and referred to the Grand Committee of May 30, 1783.

<sup>25</sup> Lieut. Ralph Hart Bowles, of the First Massachusetts Regiment. He served to June, 1784.

TO MAJOR ANDREW BILLINGS<sup>26</sup>

Newburgh, June 17, 1783.

Sir: By some mistake or other the Horse was not sent for yesterday; the Dragoon comes up for him now and those small Tools which you conceived might be useful to me; among which I pray you to send me a small file or two; one of which to be very thin, so much so as to pass between the teeth if occasion should require it; another one around.

Have you been able to satisfy yourself as to the practicability and means of colouring Sealing Wax? If so can you bring the Stick I now send you to the complexion which is wanted? Mrs. Washington sends a lock of both our hair. (Inclosed) I am etc.

Do not forget the Instrument . . . to cut . . . [mutilated]<sup>27</sup>

## \*TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Newburgh, June 18, 1783.

Dear Sir: I have received the honor of your Excellency's favor of the 9th. and am very much obliged to you for the Extracts from Mr. Laurens's Letters of the 15th. of March and 5th. of April. By these it does not appear that the British Ministry are in any haste either to evacuate New York or finish the Treaty; both of which are devoutly to be wished. The latter, as it will put a period to my public life, I look forward to it with great solicitude, and shall receive the Acct with heart felt satisfaction that in the Walks of private life my Mind may enjoy that relaxation and repose of which it stands much in need.

The Arrangements, consequent of the resolve of the 26th. of May have been all made; very few besides the three years Men

<sup>26</sup>Of Poughkeepsie, N. Y. He was a watchmaker by trade and dabbled, also, in dentistry.

<sup>27</sup>The text of this letter is from the *Magazine of American History*, vol. 2, p. 30.

and the Officers who are arranged to them remain; and the business got more happily over than could be expected.

Mrs. Washington is on a jaunt to Æsopus with the Governr and Mrs. Clinton or she would I am sure join me most Cordially in compliments to Mrs., Miss Boudinot and yourself. I have the honor etc.

\*To DANIEL PARKER

Newburgh, June 18, 1783.

Sir: For the purpose of Transportating my Books of record and Papers with safety, I want Six strong hair Trunks well clasped and with good Locks. If such are to be had you will oblige me by the purchase of them. In the margin is the Size which I think would answer best<sup>28</sup> but if they should be smaller and of different sizes it matters but little.

Mrs. Washington will also thank you for three yards of black silk like the enclosed; it is to repair old gowns, and consequently must be like them.

If you could make it convenient to pay Lewis Pintard Esqr. (I believe) of New York, Seventy two pounds Sterling for two Pipes of old Madeira Wine just sent to Virginia for me by Messrs. Searle & Co. of that Island I will, immediately upon advise thereof, deposite the like Sum with the difference of Exchange in Specie with Mr. Smith<sup>29</sup> and acknowledge it as a favor.

I have requested Mr. Smith to furnish me with a state of my acct. in your Store at this place, which he has done, but the Articles which you purchased for me in New York are not included in it. Will you be so good as to let him have an Acct. of

<sup>28</sup>Outside dimensions to be: Length, 3 ft. 6 in.; width, 1 ft. 9 in.; depth, 1 ft. 3 in.

<sup>29</sup>Melancton Smith.



these also that the whole may be discharged at the same time as was my intention when I called upon him.

Colo Smith (at my request) sent me some Books &ca from New York wch. I prayed him to call upon you for the payment of; and it is my wish that every thing which ought to go into my private Acct. may be transmitted to Mr. Smith of this place that the whole may be paid off at once, which I am desirous of doing without delay. Articles which you have been so good to furnish on Public acct. for my use, in which I mean to include the Trunks now required, will compose a separate Acct. and payment thereof be obtained from the Financier.

In a former conversation, you seemed to be of opinion that Blankets in the Kings Stores when the Troops were upon the point of evacuating the City of New York might be had exceedingly low; should this be the case I would thank you for purchasing me 150 or two hundred of them if good and large. Do Linnens, Nails, Paints &ca (course<sup>so</sup> Articles) still keep up their Prices? With great esteem etc.

PS. Should you be able to procure the Trunks which I have required in the body of this letter, I should be glad to have a Label (in brass or Copper) containing my name, and the year on each.

\*To LIEUTENANT COLONEL  
WILLIAM STEPHENS SMITH

Newburgh, June 18, 1783.

Dear Sir: The return of Doctr. La Moyuer (who has been sick since he came to this place) affords me an opportunity of acknowledging the receipt of your several letters of the 20th. and 30th. of May, and of the 1st. and 7th. Instt., and to thank

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<sup>so</sup> Coarse.

you for your attention to the different matters I gave you the trouble of.

If the Books which I required in one of my former letters, and were not then to be had are now obtainable I should be glad to get them. and if you could, conveniently, obtain a Catalogue of Books, and their prices in some of the best Shops and send them to me I shd. be obliged to you that I might fix upon such of them as I liked.

Such Articles of Foreign and domestick News as you may receive through a good channel, and shall think worth transmitting I should be glad to have forwarded to me either by Letter, or in the Gazettes. My Compliments to Mr. Benson; Mr. Parker I have written to and shall thank you for giving him the Letter. I wish also to be remembered to Mr. Fraunces<sup>81</sup> whose letter tell him I have recd. and thank him for. With great esteem and regard I am etc.

PS. Pray let me know whether old Mrs. Thompson<sup>82</sup> (our former Housekeeper) is in Town or not.<sup>83</sup>

#### CIRCULAR TO MASSACHUSETTS, NEW HAMPSHIRE, NEW JERSEY, AND VIRGINIA

Head Quarters, Newburgh, June 18, 1783.

Sir: I have the honor to enclose a Pamphlet which contains four additional papers<sup>84</sup> that were not printed at the time when I forwarded my Circular Letter, to you; these will now make the collection compleat, and shew the distressed state of the Army at the period of its approaching dissolution. I have the honor &c.<sup>85</sup>

[N. H. H. S.]

<sup>81</sup> Samuel Fraunces.

<sup>82</sup> Mrs. Elizabeth Thompson.

<sup>83</sup> From the original in the Lehigh University Library, Bethlehem, Pa.

<sup>84</sup> On the subject of half-pay and commutation for the Army.

<sup>85</sup> In the writing of David Cobb.

## GENERAL ORDERS

Wednesday, June 18, 1783.

Parole Pennsylvania. Countersigns Williamsburgh, Hanover.

For the day tomorrow { Lieutt. Colo. Sprout.  
Adj. of the 3d. Massa. regt.

For duty tomorrow the 3d. Massa. regiment.

## GENERAL ORDERS

Thursday, June 19, 1783.

Parole Susquehanna. Countersigns Potomack, Patuxent.

For the day tomorrow { Major Trescott.  
Adj. from the 2d. regt.

For duty the 2d. Massachusetts regt.

The Packet boats plying between Westpoint and Newburgh will sail at eight o'clock in the morning and six in the evening.

Ten men are to be drafted from the Line, to be employed in the Quarter Master Generals Department such as understand the management of a boat will best suit.

## To RALPH IZARD

Head Quarters, June 19, 1783.

Sir: I had the pleasure to write you the 14 of this Month, in answer to your Lre respecting the outrage committed on Mr Delancy.<sup>36</sup>

I have now the honour to transmit you Extract of Governor Clintons Letter<sup>37</sup> to me on the same subject. I am &c.<sup>38</sup>

<sup>36</sup> Mrs. Delancy.

<sup>37</sup> This letter, dated June 15, 1783, is in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>38</sup> The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

## TO MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM SMALLWOOD

Head Quarters, June 19, 1783.

Dr. Sir: In ansr to Your favor of the 2d. Ulto. I need only inform you, that Congress having taken measures in their Resolution of the 26th of May, for the eventual reduction of our force, and the Honble Secry at War having undertaken to carry that Resolution into execution so far as relates to the Troops South of the Delaware; it is probable you will have received his Orders on the subject, before this reaches you, otherwise they may soon be expected. I am etc.<sup>20</sup>

\*TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL  
WILLIAM STEPHENS SMITH

Newburgh, June 20, 1783.

Dear Sir: Doctr. La Moyuer, by whom I expect you will have receiv'd my letter of the 18th., had scarcely left this when your favor of the 17th. accompanied by Vertots Romish history and Watsons History of Philip the third were put into my hands. for sending me the latter unasked, please to accept my thanks. I shall be obliged to you for sending me by the first good conveyance the following Books; which are advertised for sale in the Gazette you sent me.

Dictionary of Arts and Sciences (4 Vs. with cuts)

Life of Gustavus Adolphus.

Sullys Memoirs.

The World displayed 20 pocket Vols. if it is an esteemed work.

Goldsmiths Natural history.

Campaigns of Marshall Turenne.

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<sup>20</sup>The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

Chambauds French and English and English and French Dictionary improved by Perrin.

Locke on the Human Understanding two Vols.

Robertsons History of Chas V<sup>40</sup>

I pray you to get the favor of Mr. Parker to pay for these Books and transmit me the Acct; the amount of wch. shall be deposited with Mr. Smith at this place. As it will be a pretty considerable purchase I may therefore hope to get them on better terms than a single Book or two would be retailed.

Among the Cattalogue of Books Advertised in the Gazette you sent me, I perceive a later Edition of Duke Hamiltons Travels (than the one you sent me before) is included comprehending his subsequent Travels Through Denmark, &ca. please to add these to your purchase. I am etc.

### GENERAL ORDERS

Friday, June 20, 1783.

Parole Amsterdam. Countersigns Brunswick, Colchester.

For the day tomorrow { Colonel H. Jackson.  
Adj. from the 4th. regiment.

For duty tomorrow the 4th. Massa. regiment.

The Troops of this Cantonment will march on monday morning 5. o'clock by the left. The senior Brigadier in the Massa. Line will conduct the Collumn over Butter hill to Westpoint. The Baggage with a proper Escort to go by water, application for the means of conveyance must previously be made to the Quarter Master General. These corps with the Troops already at Westpoint will compose the Garrison of that post and its Dependencies.

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<sup>40</sup>In the *Washington Papers*, under date of July 23, 1783, is a "List of Books now at Mount Vernon" in the writing of Lund Washington.

Major General Knox will be pleased to expedite in the best manner he is able the building of an Arsenal and Magazines, agreeably to the Instructions he hath received from the Secretary at war.

As soon as the Troops are collected at Westpoint, an accurate Inspection is to take place, in consequence of which all Non-commissioned officers and privates who are incapable of Service (except in the corps of Invalids) are to be discharged; And the names of all the men, whose time of service will expire within one month are also to be reported to Head Quarters.

The Light Infantry of the Massachusetts Brigades, the Light Company of the Connecticut regiment and one Company of the New Hampshire Battalion will form a *corps* to be posted in the County of Westchester untill further orders, and will be commanded by Lieutt. Colo. Hull and Major Sumner. This Corps will march the 22d. instant to relieve the Detachment of the late 8th. Massachusetts regiment now at Mile square. The Commanding officer will receive the Instructions already given to the officer Commanding in that District for the government of his conduct.

### GENERAL ORDERS

Saturday, June 21, 1783.

Parole Dorchester. Countersigns Exeter, Fairfax.

Lieutt. Colo. Commandt. Reid<sup>41</sup> for duty tomorrow.

When the Army marches from this Cantonment, a Detachment is to remain to do the ordinary duties at Newburgh &ca. They will be relieved every nine days, for this duty the four Hampshire Companies will commence tomorrow.

<sup>41</sup> Lieut. Col. George Reid.

On June 21 Humphreys wrote to Major General Knox that Capt. Winthrop Sergeant had been omitted in the arrangement of the Massachusetts artillery without his knowledge or consent. The Commander in Chief referred the matter to Knox to be rectified. Humphreys's draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

## GENERAL ORDERS

Sunday, June 22, 1783.

Parole Ghent. Countersigns Havrestraw, Illinois.

When the Troops move off the Ground, a surgeon or Mate will remain with the sick of each regiment for a day or two untill the Hutts can be made ready to receive them; a sufficient number of orderly men to take care of the sick must also remain with them.

## TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, June 23, 1783.

Sir: I think it expedient to transmit to your Excellency a Copy of the Correspondence<sup>42</sup> which has taken place between our Commissioners for superintending Embarkations in New York, and myself; from their several Reports, Memorials, and Remonstrances, Congress will be informed of the almost total inefficacy of the Measures which have been adopted for carrying the 7th Article of the Provisional Treaty into effect.

Finding that merely the superintendence of Embarkations, ([and that only when called upon] by the British) without the power of restraining the Property of the Inhabitants of the United States from being carried away, could be of little utility; having been also informed that the *departure* of all Negroes (who choose to go away) indiscriminately and without examination in private Vessels, is, if not publicly allowed, at least connived at, and conceiving this to be the only species of property that can at present require attention: I cannot think

<sup>42</sup>Inclosed were copies of letters from the Embarkation Commissioners to Washington, May 30; Washington to the Commissioners, June 2; Commissioners to Washington, June 14; Washington to Carleton, June 2; Commissioners to Washington, June 18; Washington to the Commissioners, June 10.

there will be much advantage in continuing our Commissioners any longer at New York, and I take the liberty therefore to suggest whether it would not be eligible to revoke the Commission. Indeed I should have thought myself authorized to decide upon this point, had I not apprehended it might eventually involve consequences of considerable national concern; it was on this account I deemed it more expedient to lay the state of this business before Congress, and to ask their farther Orders on the subject. I have the honor etc.

P. S. I am favored with your Letter of the 14th.<sup>43</sup> and will cause immediate attention to be paid to the Contents of it.<sup>44</sup>

### TO REUBEN HARVEY

Head Quarters, June 23, 1783.

Sir: I was yesterday favored with your Letter of the 12th february, and this day I transmitted the papers which accompanied it to the President of Congress, with a Letter of which the inclosed is Copy.

Your early attachment to the Cause of this Country and your exertions in relieving the distresses of such of our fellow Citizens as were so unfortunate as to be Prisoners in Ireland, claim the regard of every American and will always entitle you to my particular esteem. I shall always be happy in rendering you every Service in my power, being with great truth, Sir your etc.<sup>45</sup>

<sup>43</sup>Boudinot's letter, respecting the delay in engraving and shipping the two cannon presented by Congress to Comte de Grasse, is in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>44</sup>In the writing of David Humphreys. The phrase in brackets in the draft is in the writing of Washington. The letter was read in Congress on July 1 and referred to Hugh Williamson, James Madison, and Jacob Read.

<sup>45</sup>The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

Washington forwarded this letter through Daniel Cullimore, accompanied by a brief note (June 23) to the latter: "I now inclose you a Letter for Mr Harvey, which I take the liberty to request you to forward." This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.



## TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, June 23, 1783.

Sir: I do myself the honor to transmit your Excellency copy of a Letter I have received from Mr. Reuben Harvey of Cork in Ireland, and sundry papers which accompanied it.<sup>46</sup>

The early part this Gentleman appears to have taken in the cause of this Country, and his exertions in relieving the distresses of such of our fellow Citizens, whom the chance of War threw into the hands of the Enemy, entitle him to the esteem of every American and will doubtless have due weight in recommending [him] to the notice of Congress. I have the honor etc.<sup>47</sup>

TO THE GENERAL OFFICERS OF THE ARMY<sup>48</sup>

June 23, 1783.

Gentlemen: I am to request your opinions on the three following Questions, viz.

1st. Whether all the measures which were practicable and proper for giving satisfaction to Brigadr. General Hazen and a number of the Officers of his Corps, respecting Major Reid, have been pursued, or not?

2dly. In case they have not, what farther Steps should be taken? and

3dly. Whether Major Reid ought to be arrested and brought to trial, on the charges exhibited against him by General Hazen

<sup>46</sup>Reuben Harvey's letter of February 12 is in the *Washington Papers*. It was forwarded to Washington by Daniel Cullimore, of New York.

<sup>47</sup>In the writing of Benjamin Walker. The letter was read in Congress on July 1 and referred to Jacob Read, William Ellery, and James McHenry.

<sup>48</sup>Assembled, by request of the Commander in Chief, at headquarters, and which consisted of Major Generals Heath, Howe, and Steuben, and Brigadier Generals Huntington, Hand, and Greaton.

and some of the Officers of his Corps, in their Letter of June 6th. 1783?

For your Information, I refer to you Gentlemen, all the original Papers on this subject, agreeably to the annexed Schedule, which together with the publications in General Orders, will make you fully acquainted with the State of Facts. I have the honor etc.<sup>49</sup>

Schedule of Papers referred to: No. 1. Brigadr. Genl. Hazen's Letter and Memorial dated Pompton Jany. 14th. 1783. No. 2. Extract of a Letter from Genl. Washington to Brigadier Genl Hazen, Jany. 25th, 1783. No. 3. Opinion of the General Officers dated 24th. Jany. 1783. Copy inclosed in the preceding. No. 4. Brigadier Hazen's Letter 29th. Jany. covering Charges against the Judge Advocate. No. 5. Reference to a Board of General Officers in General Washington's Letter, dated Feby. 12th. 1783. (For the opinion of this Board, the appointment of a Court of Inquiry, and the result of their proceedings, vide General Orders.) No. 6 and 7th. Letters of the 6th and 7th of June, from Brigadier Hazen and some of the Officers of his Corps, exhibiting farther Charges against Major Reid. No. 8. General Washington's answer to the preceding Letter.<sup>50</sup>

## TO BRIGADIER GENERAL MOSES HAZEN

Head Quarters, June 24, 1783.

Sir: Altho I was fully satisfied that every possible measure has been pursued, in order to give satisfaction to yourself and some of the Officers of your Corps in the affair respecting Major Reid, and altho' the new subjects of complaint against that

<sup>49</sup>The board reported (June 24) unanimously in the affirmative on the first question, and on the second and third, that Reid ought not to be arrested. These proceedings are in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>50</sup>In the writing of David Cobb.

Officer as stated in their Letter of the 6 June, appeared to me to arise rather from a spirit of persecution, than a desire to promote Service, I hesitated to take any steps in the affair 'till I had submitted the whole of it to the General Officers with this Army; they have accordingly been assembled on the occasion and I now transmit you a Copy of their Proceedings. At the same time I cannot help expressing my sincere hope, that you will consider this as finishing an affair that has given so much trouble to the Army.

I am now, Sir, to reply to your Letter of the 12th. Inst. by Colo. Stewart. It contains no sufficient reason for your delaying to comply with my order to you of the 9th. to march with all possible dispatch to this Cantonment with those of your Corps who did not chuse to accept the furlough offered, and I must therefore desire, that you march *immediately* after the receipt of this. Every direction that can be necessary to put your Corps on the same footing, with respect to Pay, as the rest of the Army, will certainly be given. I am etc.<sup>51</sup>

\*To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

(Private)

Head Quarters, June 24, 1783.

Dear Sir: Previous to your departure from the Army, I wish to take an opportunity of expressing my sentiments of your Services; my obligations for your assistance, and my wishes for your future felicity. Our object is at last obtained; the arrangements are almost compleated, and the day of seperation is now at hand.

Permit me therefore to thank you for the trouble you have lately taken in the arrangement of the Corps under your

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<sup>51</sup>The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

Orders, as well as for all your former chearful and able exertions in the public Service; Suffer me to offer this last testimony of my regard to your merits, and give me leave, my dear Sir, to assure you of the real Affection and esteem with which I am, and shall at all times, and under all circumstances continue to be, y'r etc.<sup>52</sup>

### TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, evening, June 24, 1783.

Sir: It was not until 3 o'clock this afternoon, that I had the first intimation of the infamous and outrageous Mutiny of a part of the Pennsylvania Troops; it was then I received your Excellency's Letter of the 21st. by your express, and agreeable to the request contained in it, I instantly ordered Three compleat Regiments of Infantry and a Detachment of Artillery to be put in motion as soon as possible; This Corps (which you will observe by the Returns, is a large proportion of our whole Force) will consist of [upwards of 1500] effectives. As all the troops who composed this gallant little Army, as well those who were furloughed as those who remain in Service, are Men of tried fidelity, I could not have occasion to make any choice of Corps, and I have only to regret, that there existed a necessity, they should be employed on so disagreeable a Service. I dare say however, they will on this and all other occasions, perform their duty as brave and faithful Soldiers.

While I suffer the most poignant distress in observing that a [handful of Men contemptible in numbers, and equally so in point of Service; if the Veteran Troops from the Southward have not been seduced by their example, and who are not worthy to be called Soldiers,] should disgrace themselves as the

<sup>52</sup> From a facsimile in a sales catalogue, April, 1936.

Pennsylvania Mutineers have done, by insulting the Sovereign Authority [of the United States, and that of their own]; I feel an [in]expressible satisfaction, that even this behaviour cannot stain the name of the American Soldiery; it cannot be imputable to, or reflect dishonour on the Army at large; but on the contrary, it will, by the striking contrast it exhibits, hold up to public view the other Troops, in the most advantageous point of light; Upon taking all the circumstances into consideration, I cannot sufficiently express my surprise and indignation, at the arrogance, the folly and the wickedness of the Mutineers; nor can I sufficiently admire the fidelity, the bravery and the patriotism, which must forever signalize the unsullied Character of the other Corps of our Army; for when we consider that these Pennsylvania Levies who have now mutinied, are Recruits and Soldiers of a day, who have not born the heat and burden of the War, and who can have in reality very few hardships to complain of, and when we at the same time recollect, that those Soldiers who have lately been furloughed from this Army, are the Veterans who have patiently endured hunger, nakedness and cold, who have suffered and bled without a murmur, and who with perfect good order have retired to their homes, without the settlement of their Accounts or a farthing of money in their pockets, we shall be as much astonished at the virtues of the latter, as we are struck with horror and detestation at the proceedings of the former; and every candid mind, without indulging ill-grounded prejudices, will undoubtedly make the proper discrimination.

I intended only to wait until the Troops were collected and had occupied their new Camp, in order to make a full Report to Congress of the measures which have been taken in consequence of the Resolution of the 26th. of May. Notwithstanding the option which was given, in my answer to the address of

the Generals and Officers Commanding Regiments and Corps, which has been already sent to your Excellency. No Soldiers, [except a very few, whose homes are within the enemies lines], and a very small number of Officers, have thought proper to avail themselves of it, by remaining with the Army. A list of those who remain, is herewith transmitted. The Men engaged to serve three years were then formed into Regts. and Corps in the following manner, viz. The Troops of Massachusetts composed 4 Regiments, Connecticut 1 Regt., New Hampshire 5 Companies, Rhode Island 2 Companies, Massachusetts Artillery 3 Companies and New York Artillery 2 Companies, the total strength will be seen by the Weekly state, which is also forwarded.

The Army being thus reduced to merely a competent Garrison for West Point, [that being the only object of import. in this Qur], and it being necessary to employ a considerable part of the Men in building an Arsenal and Magazines at that Post, [agreeably to the directions given by the Secy. at War], the Troops accordingly broke up the Cantonment yesterday, and removed to that Garrison, where Majr. General Knox still retains the Command. The Detachment which marches for Philadelphia, will be under the orders of Majr. Genl. Howe, Majr. Genl. Heath [having,] at his own particular request, retired from the field; the Brigadiers now remaining with the Army, are Paterson, Huntington and Greateon, besides the Adjutant General. Thus have I given the present state of our Military affairs, and hope the Arrangements will be satisfactory to Congress. I have the honor etc.

P. S. Should any thing turn up, which may prevent the necessity of the Troops proceeding to Philadelphia, I am to request your Excellency will send the earliest intimation to the Commanding Officer, that the Detachment may return

immediately. The Route will be by Ringwood, Pompton, Morristown, Princeton and Trenton, on which your Express may meet the Corps.<sup>53</sup>

INSTRUCTIONS TO MAJOR GENERAL  
ROBERT HOWE

Head Quarters, June 25, 1783.

Sir: You are to take the command of the detachment ordered to march to Philadelphia in consequence of the Letter of the Presidt of Congress of the 21st instant; you will move with as much expedition as you can consistently with the health and comfort of the Troops. This Corps must be absolutely light and unincumbered with Baggage, having only two Peices of Field Artillery; you will make arrangements with the Qr Mastr. Genl for the transportation, and with the Contractors for a supply of Provisions and Rum. Your Route will be by Ringwood, Pompton, Morris Town and Princeton to Trenton, where it would be most convenient if you could make arrangements for embarking the Troops to proceed from thence by water to Philadelphia: but this must depend upon circumstances, and will require circumspection to prevent the Mutineers from taking advantage and annoying your landing.

The object of your Command is to suppress a mutiny which has taken place amongst a part of the Pennsylvania Troops, in the accomplishment of which you will be governed by your own discretion until you can receive the Orders of Congress; should the tumult have subsided, you will meet directions from His Excellency the President countermanding your march, you will then return by easy Movements.

<sup>53</sup>In the writing of David Cobb. The portions in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

In all cases you will be pleased to pay particular attention to the order and discipline of the Troops, and you will regulate your Marches early in the Mornng or at Evening, in such manner, that the Men may rest in the heat of the day; and be as conveniently accommodated in every respect, as the nature of the circumstances will admit.<sup>54</sup>

TO MAJOR GENERALS BARON STEUBEN AND  
HENRY KNOX, BRIGADIER GENERAL EDWARD  
HAND, AND COLONEL TIMOTHY PICKERING

Head Quarters, June 25, 1783.

Gentlemen: I refer to your consideration A Memorial of Mr Hoaksley<sup>55</sup> with sundry other papers relative to the condemnation of Merchandize &c at York Town, said to have been carried in a Flag of Truce from N York to Virginia. After an investigation of the Papers and the examination of Mr Hoaksley you will please to report your Opinion whether any alteration and what, ought to be made in the former decision. I have the honour etc.<sup>56</sup>

TO MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Head Quarters, June 25, 1783.

Sir: The Commander in Chief desires you will have as much of the hard Bread, which was delivered by the late Contractors into Elderkin's<sup>57</sup> Store, issued to the Detachment as they can carry with them, and that you will have the remainder of that Bread served out occasionally, that it may not be lost by the Public, whose property it now is. I have the honor etc.<sup>58</sup>

<sup>54</sup> The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

<sup>55</sup> Robert Hoaksley.

<sup>56</sup> The draft is in the writing of and the letter sent was signed by David Humphreys.

<sup>57</sup> John Elderkin. He was at one time a commissary at Fort Arnold.

<sup>58</sup> The draft is in the writing of and is signed "D[avid] H[umphreys]. A. D. C."



## TO MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Head Quarters, June 25, 1783.

Sir: His Excellency commands me to inform you he approves of the Arrangements you have made, and would have the party from the Lines follow in the manner you propose. General Howe will meet the Detachment in the Clove tomorrow mornng.

No Express or Information hath arrived from Philadelphia since you left Head Quarters last Evening. I have the Honor etc.<sup>89</sup>

## TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, Newburgh,

June 25, 9 o'clock P. M., 1783.

Sir: I am honored by your Excellency's Letter dated the 21st inst. 11 o'clock P. M., enclosing the Resolutions of Congress<sup>90</sup> of the same date.

Congress will have been informed by mine of last evening, which was forwarded by your returning Express this morning, that I had, in consequence of the intimation contained in your Excellency's former Letter, anticipated their Orders expressed in the above mentioned Resolutions, the Troops have commenced their March accordingly, and encamp this night at the Forest of Dean, eight Miles from West Point; I have therefore nothing farther to add except that I am etc.<sup>91</sup>

<sup>89</sup>The draft is in the writing of and is signed "D Humphreys A. D. C."

At 5 o'clock p. m., this same day (June 25), Humphreys again wrote to Knox that from dispatches, just received from Philadelphia, "the necessity still exists for marching the Detachment as expeditiously as may be." Humphreys's draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>90</sup>The resolves of June 21, after reciting that the authority of the United States "having been this day grossly insulted by the disorderly and menacing appearance of a body of armed soldiers . . . that the Secretary at War be directed to communicate to the Commander in Chief, the state and disposition of the said troops, in order that he may take immediate measures to dispatch to this city, such forces as he may judge expedient for suppressing any disturbances that may ensue." Congress adjourned on June 21 and removed to Princeton, N. J., where they convened on June 30.

<sup>91</sup>In the writing of David Cobb.

## GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, Saturday, June 28, 1783.

Parole ———. Countersigns ———.

A Board consisting of three field officers to be appointed by Major General Knox, Doctr. Cochran or Craick and one hospital surgeon will assemble at Westpoint on Wednesday next for the purpose of examining all the Invalids and debilitated men of the Army; they will proceed on the principles laid down in the orders of the 3d. of August last, and report their opinion so far as they can proceed, as soon as may be, and meet again when the absent troops return to complete the business.

## To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Head Quarters, June 29, 1783.

Sir: His Excellency directs me to express to you his Concern for the Circumstance you mention of the Regts. being without their Compliment of Field Officers. It is unlucky, but the Inconvenience must at present remain without Remedy. Colo. Vose is unwell here. Colo. M. Jackson is incapable to perform the Duty. Nothing New has yet arrived from Phila. 'tis possible there may not be that Occasion for the Troops which has been apprehended. Most respectfully etc.<sup>92</sup>

## To BRIGADIER GENERAL MOSES HAZEN

Head Quarters, June 30, 1783.

Sir: You will be pleased to arrange the Remains of your Corps into two Companies upon the principles of the several

<sup>92</sup>The draft is in the writing of and is signed "J T—ll, Jr."

Orders which have been issued in consequence of the Resolution of Congress of the 26th of May last; after Officering the two Companies, the remainder of the Officers will be in the same predicament with those of the different Lines not attached to any particular Corps, and may avail themselves of the choice given of remaining with the Army or going into the Country as may be most convenient for them. You will please to report the Arrangement as soon as may be. I am etc.<sup>68</sup>

### TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, June 30, 1783.

Sir: I have to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's favor of the 26th, and to thank you for the information contained in it.

If Congress should have already taken up, or should they be about to determine upon the subject of receiving possession of the Posts on the Western Frontier, which was mentioned in my Letters of the 3d of May and 7th of June, I would take the liberty to recommend Major General the Baron Steuben (who will have the honor of delivering this Letter) as a Gentleman very much acquainted with Military Dispositions, as well as with the Language commonly spoken in Canada, and on those accounts, particularly calculated to make the Arrangements which may be necessary on this occasion; The Baron will not hesitate to undertake the negotiation with General Haldimand, if it should be agreeable to the sentiments of Congress, and I need only add that from the zeal and intelligence he has always manifested in the public Service, a judgment may be formed of the attention and fidelity which may be expected

<sup>68</sup>The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

from him in the performance of this or any other duty which shall be committed to his charge. I have the honor etc.<sup>64</sup>

CERTIFICATE TO  
COLONEL JEAN BAPTISTE GOUVION

[June, 1783.]

Whereas Colonel Gouvion of the Corps of Engineers hath served in the American Army with great reputation from an early Period of the War, until the happy termination of it in the acknowledgement of the Independence of the United States. And whereas his services have been principally performed under my immediate Inspection; I have therefore thought proper to grant this Certificate of Service and make known the following facts, viz. that by an Agreement entered into between Doctr. Franklin the American Plenipotentiary at Paris and Monsr. Gouvion, the latter was to be considered as a Major in the service of the United States from the 13th day of Febry. 1777; that the United States in Congress assembled were pleased to confirm that Rank by a Resolution of the 8th of July 1777; that on the 17th of Novr in the same year 1777, Congress thought proper to promote him to the Rank of a Lieutenant Colonel, and that on the 16th of Novr 1781 he was by the same sovereign Power promoted to the Rank of a Colonel in their service.

And I do hereby farther Certify and make known that the said Colonel Gouvion hath in all these several Grades and in a series of important Operations acquitted himself to the Universal satisfactory of all with whom he has served; And particularly that he did exhibit such unquestionable proofs of

<sup>64</sup>In the writing of David Cobb. The letter was read in Congress on July 4 and referred to James Madison, Oliver Ellsworth, and Benjamin Hawkins.

bravery, activity, intelligence and skill in his profession at the successful Siege of the British Post of York in Virginia, as entitled him to very honorable Notice, and induced Congress to promote him to the Rank of a Colonel, as before specified, in testimony of their Regard for his Merits and Abilities.<sup>65</sup>

TO LIEUTENANT THEODORE GEBHARD<sup>66</sup>

Head Quarters, July 1, 1783.

Sir: Your favor of the 5th of June, reached me a few Days ago.

It has been owing to some Mistake, that you and the Troops under your care at Rutland, have not been liberated. I have lost no Time to inform the Secretary at War of your Circumstances, and you may soon expect his Orders for your Removal to N York. I am &c.<sup>67</sup>

TO THE SECRETARY AT WAR

Head Quarters, July 1, 1783.

Dr. Sir: The enclosed is a Copy of a Letter which I received a few Days ago, from an Officer of some Brunswick Troops, prisoners at Rutland. By some means, it would seem they have been overlooked in the Discharge of Prisoners. If Orders are not already given, will you be pleased to forward Directions for their Liberation as soon as possible. I should not have hesitated to have done this myself, had I known to whom I should direct my Orders.

Enclosed are also the Copies of a Letter and Memorial of the Regimental Mates of the Army, which I transmit to you, to be

<sup>65</sup>This draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

<sup>66</sup>Of the regiment Hereditary Prince, Brunswick troops, German allied troops.

<sup>67</sup>The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

laid before Congress. That Hono Body, being perfectly possessed of their Original principles and Ideas, respectg this grade of Officers, will determine on the propriety of this Application. I have no wish to interfere in the Matter.<sup>68</sup>

#### TO BRIGADIER GENERAL EDWARD HAND

Newburgh, July 3, 1783.

Dr Sir: In ansr to yours of last Eveng I should advise, that the Return of Hazens Regt. be sent back, that the Commanding Officer be informed that unless the Alteration respectg the promotion of Officers between the present and last Return is made on good authority the Return cannot be accepted, that the Officer signing becomes responsible for the veracity of it, and must abide the consequences if the Return should be found erroneous. These things may be communicated by way of caution, in a proper military manner, so as to produce the desired effect, without any difficulty. I am etc.<sup>69</sup>

#### TO MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT HOWE

Head Quarters, July 4, 1783.

Sir: I have this Mornng been favoured with your two Letters of the 1st of July, with a Resolution of Congress directg you to proceed with the Troops to Phila.<sup>70</sup>

<sup>68</sup>The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

<sup>69</sup>The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

<sup>70</sup>On July 1 Boudinot wrote to Washington that "Major General Howe, who arrived with his detachment, in this Neighbourhood last Evening. By the last Accounts from Philadelphia the Mutiny was entirely quelled and the Lancaster division had marched to that Town; but it is *expected* that after their Submission, Colo Humpton furloughed the greatest part of them." Boudinot's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

On July 4 Washington wrote a brief note of acknowledgment of the receipt of the above letter from Boudinot and expressed the hope that his (Washington's) letters of June 24 and 25 have been received. This letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*.

The March of the detachment of Jackson's Regiment had not been countermanded by me; but I am glad to find it has been done under directions of Congress. I am &c.<sup>71</sup>

#### TO MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Head Quarters, July 4, 1783.

Sir: Serjt. Barber has applied to Head Quarters for farther advice on the complaints exhibited against Lt Colo Popkin. His Excellency desires you will undertake the superintendence of the matter and the redress of real grievances (if any shall be found) so far as the nature of the circumstances will admit; in the mean time, should it be necessary for one or two of the Complainants to remain with the Army, to prosecute the affair, altho they should have been discharged, they may be allowed to draw Rations, if you judge their continuance necessary for the sake of obtaining Justice. I have the honor etc.<sup>72</sup>

#### TO BRIGADIER GENERAL EDWARD HAND

Headquarters, July 4, 1783.

The Return of Hazen's Reg't mentioned in your Letter of this date cannot be accepted, as no intimation has ever been given from Authority that the promotions in question have taken place, and until such official information shall be received no Notice can be taken of them, as I have already informed the Inspector of the Army in answer to his request to know in what manner the Persons said to be promoted are to be borne on the last Muster Rolls which have been taken of that Corps.

I shall immediately apply to Congress, and obtain certain

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<sup>71</sup>The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

<sup>72</sup>The draft is in the writing of and the letter sent was signed by David Humphreys.

information whether the promotions have actually been made or not. I am etc.<sup>73</sup>

### TO COLONEL SAMUEL BLATCHLEY WEBB

Head Quarters, July 4, 1783.

Dear Sir: Agreeable to your request, I inclose to you a Certificate of your having acted in my family as one of my Aides D Camp.

I thank you for the friendly Expressions of Regard and Benevolence which you are pleased to use towards me and Mrs Washington. May you be attended in your future Walks of Life, with Health and every Happiness, is the sincere Wish of etc.<sup>74</sup>

### CERTIFICATE TO COLONEL WEBB

Head Quarters, July 4, 1783.

I do hereby certify that, in the Year 1776, Colo S B Webb, was in my family, and acted in the Character of one of my Aides D Camp, the Duties of which Office he perform'd with fidelity, Integrity and Capacity, untill he was promoted to the Com'd. of a Regt in Service of the United States which called him to the pursuit of other Cares.<sup>74</sup>

### TO WILLIAM DENNING<sup>75</sup>

Head Quarters, July 5, 1783.

Sir: General Bayley who will deliver this has some accounts against the United States which he wishes to have early settled, and which he thinks are lodged in your Hands for that purpose.

<sup>73</sup>In the writing of David Humphreys. From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by George A. Ball, of Muncie, Ind.

<sup>74</sup>The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

<sup>75</sup>Continental auditor of accounts for the State of New York.



This Gentleman has performed, to my knowledge, several beneficial Services for the U States, for which he deserves a just and reasonable Reward; should his Accounts come under your Direction, I wish you to give him such Assistance and Dispatch in their Adjustment as may be in your power. I am etc.<sup>76</sup>

### TO JUDGE ADVOCATE THOMAS EDWARDS

Head Quarters, July 7, 1783.

Sir: In Consequence of the late unhappy Irregularities of some of the Continental Troops in Phila. Genl Howe is directed to march with the Detachment under his Command to that City, where he is to enter into an Investigation of the Circumstances and Motives of this Affair; in Doing this it is probable it may lead to a Crimination and Trial of some Officers and others in the Military Line, which, from the Connection there may be with the Civil, will require that the procedure should be conducted with propriety, regularity and Delicacy.

His Excellcy therefore thinkg it best, Requests that you will proceed immediately to Phila. where you will report yourself to Majr Genl Howe and in the Execution of your Office, afford him every Assistance in your power, in conductg the unhappy Business committed to his Charge. Before you set off you will be so good as to call at Head Quarters. I am &c.<sup>77</sup>

### TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, July 5[-8], 1783.

Sir: Your Excellency will find sundry Papers inclosed from No. 1 to No. 4 inclusive,<sup>78</sup> respecting the pretended promotion

<sup>76</sup>The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

<sup>77</sup>The draft is in the writing of and is signed: "[Jonathan] Tr[umbu]ll [jr]."

<sup>78</sup>The inclosures were copies of Hand's letter to Hazen, July 3; Hazen to Hand, July 3; Hand to Washington, July 4; and Washington to Hand, July 4.

of several Officers in Brigadier General Hazen's Regt.; the reason of my refusal to accept the return in question, without the farther sanction of Authority, will be understood from a perusal of the inclosures; and as the monthly returns cannot be compleated until the necessary advice shall be received I am to request the favor of an Answer as soon as may be convenient, that I may know whether the promotions have actually taken place or not, and in what point of light the affair is to be considered by me. I have the honor etc.

PS 8th July.

An expected Opportunity of sendg this Letter having failed, I now have the Honor to acknowledge your Excellencys favor of the 5th. enclosing an Extract from the minutes of Congress respecting the motives of their removal to Princeton. I thank your Excellency for this Communication, and have the Honor &c.<sup>79</sup>

TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM HULL

July 8, 1783.

Sir: I am just favored with your Letter of Yesterday.

As the intent of sending the Troops on the Lines was to assist the Civil Authority any disposition of them best suited to answer that purpose will be perfectly agreeable to me.

Tho I could have no objection to your visiting N York under other circumstances, in your present situation I cannot help thinking it would tend to promote what I have carefully endeavoured to avoid, an intercourse between our Troops and the British; for, if the Restraint is broke thro' in one Instance, the other Officers will claim the same indulgence; the same

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<sup>79</sup>In the writing of Benjamin Walker; the P. S. is in that of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. The letter was read in Congress on July 11 and referred to the Secretary at War to report.

reasons may be urged against your sending in any of the Soldiers of your Command.

With respect to the expence attending your situation, I cannot say how far I am at liberty to make you any allowance for it; but you may believe I shall be happy in doing whatever may appear Just and reasonable. I am &c.<sup>80</sup>

#### TO MAJOR GENERAL ARTHUR ST. CLAIR

Head Quarters, July 8, 1783.

Sir: I have been favored with your Letter of the 2d instant, respecting the unhappy Irregularities of the Troops in Philadelphia.

Your proposition for sending on the Judge Advocate appeared so just, that I have directed him to proceed immediately to Philadelphia and give all the Assistance in his power. I wish a happy Termination of this unlucky Affair.

The Pay Master General had left this before the Arrival of your Letter, for the purpose, among others, of forming his Arrangements for settling the Accounts of the Southern Troops. With much Regard etc.<sup>81</sup>

#### TO MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT HOWE

Head Quarters, July 8, 1783.

Sir: I have received your favor of the 3d inst dated at Trenton.

In Consequence of a Letter from M Genl St. Clair and at his Request, I have ordered the Judge Advocate to proceed to Phila. This Gentlemans Assistance will probably be necessary in the prosecution of the Business intrusted to your Investigation. I

<sup>80</sup>The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

<sup>81</sup>The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

have directed him to attend on you, and to give every Aid in his power, in an Affair, that will need to be conducted with great propriety, Regularity and Delicacy. I am &c.<sup>82</sup>

### TO BARON STEUBEN

Head Quarters, July 8, 1783.

Dear Baron: I have duly recd. your two favors of the 5th by Express; it was indeed an unfortunate circumstance that the Resolution of the 12th of May,<sup>83</sup> respecting the frontier Posts could not have been sooner known and acted upon; as it is, we must make the best of what remains for us to arrange, on which subject it is not necessary for me to enlarge, as I shall probably have the pleasure of seeing you here personally in a short time; in the mean while I request you will believe that I am Dear Baron etc.

### \*TO REVEREND WILLIAM GORDON

Head Qrs., Newburgh, July 8, 1783.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 19th. of June came to my hands on Sunday last by the Southern Mail; from this circumstance, and the date of it I conclude it has been to Philadelphia, a mistake not very unusual for the Post master at Fishkiln to commit.

I delayed not a moment to forwd. the letters which came to me under your cover of the 26th. of Feby. to New York. I did not answer the letter which accompanied them in due Season;

<sup>82</sup>The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

<sup>83</sup>The resolve of May 12 gave full power to Washington for arranging with the British commander in Canada for taking over the western posts.

On July 8 Washington wrote briefly to Assistant Secretary at War William Jackson, acknowledging his letter of July 5 which inclosed the resolve of May 12. "The failure of this Resolution by an earlier Opportunity has been truly unlucky; the misfortune will be remedied in the best manner I am able to do it." This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

not so much from the hurry of business, as because my Sentiments on the essential part of it had been communicated to you before; and because the Annunciation of Peace, which came close upon the heels of it, put an end to all speculative opinions with respect to the time and terms of it.

I now thank you for your kind congratulations on this event. I feel sensibly the flattering expressions, and fervent wishes with which you have accompanied them, and make a tender of mine, with much cordiality, in return. It now rests with the Confederated Powers,\*<sup>4</sup> by the line of conduct they mean to adopt, to make this Country great, happy, and respectable; or to sink it into littleness; worse perhaps, into Anarchy and Confusion; for certain I am, that unless adequate Powers are given to Congress for the *general* purposes of the Federal Union that we shall soon moulder into dust and become contemptible in the Eyes of Europe, if we are not made the sport of their Politics; to suppose that the general concern of this Country can be directed by thirteen heads, or one head without competent powers, is a solecism, the bad effects of which every Man who has had the practical knowledge to judge from, that I have, is fully convinced of; tho' none perhaps has felt them in so forcible, and distressing a degree. The People at large, and at a distance from the theatre of Action, who only know that the Machine was kept in motion, and that they are at last arrived at the first object of their Wishes are satisfied with the event, without investigating the causes of the slow progress to it, or of the Expences which have accrued and which they now seem unwilling to pay; great part of which has arisen from that want of energy in the Federal Constitution which I am complaining of, and which I wish to see given to it by a Convention of the People, instead of hearing it remarked that as we have

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\*<sup>4</sup> States.

worked through an arduous Contest with the Powers Congress already have (but which, by the by, have been gradually diminishing) why should they be invested with more?

To say nothing of the invisible workings of Providence, which has conducted us through difficulties where no human foresight could point the way; it will appear evident to a close Examiner, that there has been a concatenation of causes to produce this Event; which in all probability at no time, or under any Circumstances, will combine again. We deceive ourselves therefore by this mode of reasoning, and what would be much worse, we may bring ruin upon ourselves by attempting to carry it into practice.

We are known by no other character among Nations than as the United States; Massachusetts or Virginia is no better defined, nor any more thought of by Foreign Powers than the County of Worcester in Massachusetts is by Virginia, or Gloucester County in Virginia is by Massachusetts (respectable as they are); and yet these Counties, with as much propriety might oppose themselves to the Laws of the State in wch. they are, as an Individual State can oppose itself to the Federal Government, by which it is, or ought to be bound. Each of these Counties has, no doubt, its local polity and Interests. these should be attended to, and brought before their respective legislatures with all the force their importance merits; but when they come in contact with the general Interest of the State; when superior considerations preponderate in favor of the whole, their Voices should be heard no more; so should it be with individual States when compared to the Union. Otherwise I think it may properly be asked for what purpose do we farcically pretend to be United? Why do Congress spend Months together in deliberating upon, debating, and digesting plans, which are made as palatable, and as wholesome to the Constitution of this Country as the nature of things will admit of, when some States

will pay no attention to them, and others regard them but partially; by which means all those evils which proceed from delay, are felt by the whole; while the compliant States are not only suffering by these neglects, but in many instances are injured most capitally by their own exertions; which are wasted for want of the United effort. A hundred thousand men coming one after another cannot move a Ton weight; but the united strength of 50 would transport it with ease. so has it been with great part of the expence which has been incurred this War. In a Word, I think the blood and treasure which has been spent in it has been lavished to little purpose, unless we can be better Cemented; and that is not to be effected while so little attention is paid to the recommendations of the Sovereign Power.

To me it would seem not more absurd, to hear a traveller, who was setting out on a long journey, declare he would take no Money in his pocket to defray the Expences of it but rather depend upon chance and charity lest he should misapply it, than are the expressions of so much fear of the powers and means of Congress. For Heavens sake who are Congress? are they not the Creatures of the People, amenable to them for their Conduct, and dependant from day to day on their breath? Where then can be the danger of giving them such Powers as are adequate to the great ends of Government, and to all the general purposes of the Confederation (I repeat the word *gentl*, because I am no advocate for their having to do with the particular policy of any State, further than it concerns the Union at large). What may be the consequences if they have not these Powers I am at no loss to guess; and deprecate the worst; for sure I am, we shall, in a little time, become as contemptible in the great Scale of Politicks as we now have it in our power to be respectable; and that, when the band of Union gets once broken, every thing ruinous to our future prospects is to be apprehended; the best that can come of it, in my humble opinion

is, that we shall sink into obscurity, unless our Civil broils should keep us in remembrance and fill the page of history with the direful consequences of them.

You say that, Congress loose time by pressing a mode that does not accord with the genius of the People, and will thereby, endanger the Union; and that it is the quantum they want. Permit me to ask if the quantum has not already been demanded? Whether it has been obtained? and whence proceed the accumulated evils, and poignant distresses of many of the public Creditors, particularly in the Army? For my own part I hesitate not a moment to confess, that I see nothing wherein the Union is endangered by the late requisition of that body; but a prospect of much good, justice, and propriety from the compliance with it. I know of no Tax more convenient; none so agreeable, as that which every man may pay, or let it alone as his convenience, abilities, or Inclination shall prompt. I am therefore a warm friend to the Impost.

I can only repeat to you, that whenever Congress shall think proper to open the door of their Archives to you, (which can be best known, and with more propriety discovered through the Delegates of your own State), All my Records and Papers shall be unfolded to your View, and I shall be happy in your Company at Mt. Vernon, while you are taking such Extracts from them, as you may find convenient. It is a piece of respect wch. I think is due to the Sovereign Power to let it take the lead in this business (without any interference of mine). and another reason why I choose to withhold mine, to this epoch is, that I am positive no History of the Revolution can be perfect if the Historiographer has not free access to that fund of Information.

Mrs. Washington joins me in Compliments to Mrs. Gordon and I am etc.



CERTIFICATE TO THE MUHHEKUNNUK INDIANS<sup>85</sup>

Head Quarters, July 8, 1783.

Whereas our Brothers the Muhhekunnuk Tribe of Indians have signified to us their intention of removing their present settlement near Stockbridge to the Oneida Country and are desirous of carrying with them some Testimony of their attachment to the United States of America during the late War.

We therefore have thought proper, by these presents, to make known, That during the whole of the late War, the aforesaid Muhhekunnuk Tribe of Indians have remained firmly attached to us and have fought and bled by our side; That we consider them as our friends and Brothers, and as a Peace is now established between all the Powers who were at War we do recommend it to all the different Tribes of Indians as well as all other persons Inhabiting the Western Country, not to molest them in any manner whatever but to consider them as friends and subjects to the United States of America.<sup>86</sup>

## GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, Tuesday, July 8, 1783.

Parole ———. Countersigns ———.

Mr. Peirce, Commissioner for settling the accounts of the Army,<sup>87</sup> having been invested by Congress with more ample

<sup>85</sup> This tribe was usually known as the Mahican or Stockbridge Indians.

<sup>86</sup> The text is from the proclamation, so called, in the Connecticut State Library. It varies considerably, but in no important degree, from the draft, in the writing of Benjamin Walker in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>87</sup> On July 4 Congress had directed the settlement of all pay accounts of the Army. The form adopted for such settlement was a printed certificate of indebtedness which came to be known as Pierce Certificates. They were  $3\frac{1}{2} \times 6\frac{1}{4}$  inches in size, with the print running across the  $3\frac{1}{2}$  dimension. The wording was: "No. State of 1783. On the final settlement of an account between the United/States and there appeared/to be due to him the sum of / Dollars. I do therefore certify, that the said sum is payable with interest at six per cent/ from the twenty second day of March 1783 to/the said or bearer./ Doll Jno. Pierce, Commissioner." Some 90,000 of these certificates were issued.

powers, for the speedy completion of that interesting business, The pay masters of regiments will as soon as possible make returns to him of the cloathing due to the respective regiments and corps in the army signed by themselves and certified by the Commanding or some Field officer of each regiment, wherever it is practicable.'

Returns are to be made out immediately and lodged in the Commissioners office at New Windsor of the Commissioned officers who are or may be entitled to Commutation on the discharge of the Army.

Also regimental Returns are to be deposited in that office of all the noncommissioned officers and privates who are or may be intitled to the Eighty Dollars gratuity, promised by Congress in their Resolution of the 15th. of May 1778.

Application is to be made without delay to the Commissioners Office for the forms of the foregoing Returns.<sup>88</sup>

#### \*To BARBÉ MARBOIS

Hd. Qrs., Newburgh, July 9, 1783.

Sir: The last Post brought me the honor of your favor of the first Instt. inclosing an Extract from the Letter of Monsr. de Malesherbes<sup>89</sup> to you.

I hardly know how, sufficiently, to express my gratitude and thanks to that Gentleman for his intended favors, and the polite and flattering manner in which he seems disposed to confer them. Nor can I sufficiently express my concern for the trouble he has had from my improper explanation to the misconception of my good and amiable friend the Marqs. de la Fayette.

<sup>88</sup>At this point in the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress is the following note: "N. B. No Orders between the 8th. July & 17th. August."

<sup>89</sup>Chrétien Guillaume de Lamoignon de Malesherbes, royal councillor, Minister of State of France.

To cultivate Exotics for the purpose of making Wine, or for my amusement, was never contemplated by me. The spontaneous growth of the Vine in all parts of this Country; the different qualities of them and periods for maturation, led me to conclude that by a happy choice of the species I might succeed better than those who had attempted the foreign vine; accordingly, a year or two before hostilities commenced I selected about two thousand cuttings of a kind which does not ripen with us (in Virginia) 'till repeated frosts in the Autumn meliorate the Grape and deprive the Vines of their leaves. It is then, and not before, the grape (which is never very pallitable) can be Eaten.

Several little Essay's have been made by Gentlemen of my acquaintance to cultivate the foreign grape, for Wine but none had well succeeded; owing either to an improper kind or the want of skill in the management; for the most part their Wine soon contracted an acidity, which rendered it unfit for use; one cause of which I ascribed to the ripening of their grape in our Summer or Autumnal heats and to the too great fermentation occasioned thereby. This consideration led me to try the wild grape of the Country; and to fix upon the species which I have already described, and which in the Eight years I have been absent from my Estate has been little attended to. Had I remained at home, I should 'ere this, have perfected the experiment which was all I had in view.

Thus my good Sir, have I given you the history of my proposed cultivation of the Vine; and all I ever had in contemplation to attempt. I feel unhappy therefore at being the innocent cause of so much trouble to Monsr. de Malesherbes whose politeness, and goodness upon this occasion seem to have no bounds and fill me with gratitude and acknowledgment which I beg the favr. of you to convey to him in such terms as I know

you are Master of, and which will do more justice to my feelings than any Expression of my own.

If notwithstanding my former plans Monsr. de Malesherbes will honr. me with a few sets, or cuttings of any *one* kind (and the choice is left altogether to himself) I will cultivate them with the utmost care. I will always think of him when I go into my little Vineyard; and the first fruits of it shall be dedicated to him as the Author of it. If to these he would add a few sets of the several kinds of Eating Grape for my Gardens it would add much to the obligation he seems so well disposed to confer on me.

For the trouble you have had, and I am about to give you in this business you will please to accept my thanks and the assurances of that esteem etc.

\*TO MAJOR JOHN JOINER ELLIS\*

Hd. Quarters, in the State of New York, July 10, 1783.

Sir: You profess not to be a panegyrist while you are bestowing the most exalted praise; but compliments apart, I received your very polite Letter of the 25th. of Mar: with much pleasure. It recalled to my remembrance some of the pleasing occurrences of my past life and reminded me of the Acquaintances I had formed in it; for whom, tho' seperated by time, distance, and political Sentiments I retain the same Friendship.

I was opposed to the policy of G: B; and became an enemy to her measures; but I always distinguished between a Cause and Individuals; and while the latter supported their opinions upon liberal and generous grounds, personally, I never could be an enemy to them.

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\*Major of the Eighty-ninth Foot, British Army. He wrote from Worcester, England.

I have only to request therefore, that you will suffer me to retain that place in your friendship of which you assure me I now hold. That you will accept my sincere thanks for the favorable Sentiments you have been pleased to express of me. and will do me the justice to believe, that with great esteem and regard I have the honor, etc.

\*TO GEORGE WILLIAM FAIRFAX

State of New York, July 10, 1783.

My dear Sir: With very sincere pleasure I receiv'd your favor of the 26th. of March. It came to hand a few days ago only; and gave me the satisfaction of learning that you enjoyed good health, and that Mrs. Fairfax had improved in hers. there was nothing wanting in this Letter to give compleat satisfaction to Mrs. Washington and myself, but some expression to induce us to believe you would once more become our Neighbours. Your House at Belvoir I am sorry to add is no more, but mine (which is enlarged since you saw it) is most sincerely and heartily at your Service till you could rebuild it.

As the path, after being closed by a long, arduous, and painful contest, is to use an Indian Methaphor, now opened and made smooth, I shall please myself with the hope of hearing from you frequently; and till you forbid me to indulge the wish I shall not *despair* of seeing you and Mrs. Fairfax once more the Inhabitants of Belvoir, and greeting you both there, the intimate companions of our old Age, as you have been of our younger years.

I cannot sufficiently express my sensibility for your kind congratulations on the favourable termination of the War, and for the flattering manner in wch. you are pleased to speak of my

instrumentality in effecting a revolution, which I can truly aver was not in the Beginning, premeditated; but the result of dire necessity brought about by the persecuting spirit of the British Government.<sup>91</sup> This no man can speak to with more certainty, or assert upon better ground than myself, as I was a member of Congress and in the Councils of America till the Affair at Bunker hill and was an attentive observer and witness to those interesting and painful struggles for accommodation, and redress of grievances in a Constitutional way which all the world saw and must have approved, except the ignorant, deluded, and designing.

I unite my prayers most fervently with yours, for Wisdom to these U States and have no doubt, after a little while all errors in the present form of their Government will be corrected and a happy temper be diffused through the whole; but like young heirs come a little prematurely perhaps to a large Inheritance it is more than probable they will riot for a while; but, in this, if it should happen, tho' it is a circumstance which is to be lamented (as I would have the National character of America be pure and immaculate) will work its own cure, as there is virtue at the bottom.

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<sup>91</sup> Fairfax had written (Mar. 26, 1873): "Permit me, tho' an humble individual, and unfortunately out of the way of contributing my mite to the great, the glorious cause of Liberty, to offer my best thanks for all your Exertions, disinterested perseverance to the End of the great work . . . I glory in being called an American. . . . During the War, I frequently did myself the honor of Addressing a line to you, some of which I hope kis'd your hand, others were I know Intercepted, and sent to the Minister, one of which, had like to have cost me dear, but happily for me, I was related to a Lady, whose interest at Court saved me from persecution. I every moment expected a Messenger to take me in Custody . . . Indeed my dear Sir, I have been in very disagreeable Situations, was obliged to leave Yorkshire, to get out of the way of being informed against, by some Relations, who I apprehended, would have hung me, to gett my little Estate joining to theirs. but I thank Heaven, you and our brave countrymen, times are greatly altered, and I am now as much Courted, as I was before dispised as an American . . . It is not possible for you to conceive how I am pestered, by applications, for Letters of introduction to your Excellency: and other Persons of consequence in Virginia, by Men, that would twelve months ago, have thought it a reflection upon them to be even seen in my Company." Fairfax's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

You speak of having written many Letters to me during the War; but few, very few indeed have ever reached me. Early, and repeatedly, did I advise you of the impracticability, while I continued to direct the Military operations of this Country, of my paying the smallest attention to your Interest in Virginia, and pressed you to name some other friend to superintend your business. Upon your suggestion of Mr. Nicholas I wrote to him on the subject without obtaining an answer; and wrote, and wrote again to him Months after he was dead, so little acquainted was I with the private occurrences of our own State; nor to this moment have I got an answer from any one on the Subject, and know as little, perhaps less than you do, of the situation of your Affairs in Virginia. I have been in the State but once since the 4th. of May 1775 and that was at the Siege of York; in going thither I spent one day at my own House, and in returning I took 3 or 4 without attempting to transact a particle of private business, even for myself. I do not conceive that it would be any consolation to you to hear that your Neighbours were equal Sufferers with yourself or you might thank God as an Overseer in the Service of your Father in Law did when he was rendering an Acct. to his Employer in the time of a calamitous drth. of the miserable prospect before him and the probability of their starving, that his Neighbours were as bad off as himself.

The amiable Mr. Custis was taken Sick at the Siege of York, and died at Colo. Bassetts the      of Novr. he has left four lovely Children;<sup>92</sup> three girls and a boy (the latter is the youngest) who were all very well and promising when we heard last from them. His widow is yet single, and lives where he did, at the

<sup>92</sup> Elizabeth Parke, born Aug. 21, 1776, known as "Eliza," who married Thomas Law; Martha Parke, born Dec. 31, 1777, who married Thomas Peter; Eleanor Parke, born Mar. 21, 1779, known as "Nellie," who married Lawrence Lewis; and George Washington Parke, born Apr. 30, 1781, who married Mary Lee Fitzhugh.

place formerly Robt. Alexanders<sup>93</sup> (above Alexandria) which he bought and handsomely approved [*sic*] before his death.

Mrs. Washington enjoys an incompetent share of health; Billious Fevers and Cholic's attack her very often, and reduce her low; at this moment she is but barely recovering from one of them; at the same time that she thanks Mrs. Fairfax and you for your kind suggestion of Doctr. James's Annaliptic Pills, she begs you both to accept her most Affectionate regards; she would have conveyed these in a letter of her own, with grateful acknowledgments of Mrs. Fairfax's kind remembrance by Mr. Lee, if her health would have allowed it.

I wait with great impatience the arrival of the Definitive Treaty, that I may quit my Military employments, and bid adieu to public life, and in the shades of retirement seek that repose and tranquillity to which I have been an entire stranger for more than Eight years. I wish for it too because it will afford me some leizure to attend to an impaired fortune and recover, as it were from a state of torpidity or suspension; except in the instances of having money paid to me at a depreciated value.

My warmest and best Affections attend Mrs. Fairfax and yourself; and I am etc.

\*To WILLIAM DREW

Newg., July 10, 1783.

Sir: The Sister of the late Majr. Genl. Lee (In England) has requested me to get and send her an Authentic Copy of his Will. As I am informed the record of it is in the County of which you are Clerk I pray you to send me an Official and formal Copy for that Lady, the expence of which will be paid by Sir yr. etc.

<sup>93</sup>"Abington." It is no longer standing.



## INSTRUCTIONS TO BARON STEUBEN

Head Quarters, Newburgh, July 12, 1783.

In Consequence of Powers in me vested for that purpose, I do hereby authorise and desire you to proceed, with such dispatch as you shall find convenient, into Canada, and there concert with Genl. Haldimand, or other British Commander in Chief, in that Province, upon all such measures as shall be found necessary for receiving possession of the posts now under his Command within the Territory ceded to the United States, and at present occupied by the Troops of his Britannic Majesty, and from which, his sd. Majestys Troops are to be withdrawn agreeably to the 7th. Article of the provisional Treaty between his sd. Majesty and the United States of America.

In accomplishing this negotiation, you will obtain, if possible, from General Haldimand, his Assurances and Orders for the immediate possession, by the United States, of the posts in question, or at least a Cession of them at an early day. But if this cannot be done, you will endeavour to procure from him, positive and definitive Assurances, that he will as soon as possible, give Information of the Time which shall be fixed on for the Evacuation of those posts, and that the Troops of his Britannic Majesty shall not be with drawn therefrom, until sufficient previous notice shall be given of that Event; that the Troops of the United States maybe ready to occupy the fortresses, the moment they shall be abandoned by those of his Britannic Majesty.

You will propose to General Haldimand an Exchange of such Artillery and Stores, now in the posts, as you shall judge proper, and which you may think will be beneficial to the United States, agreeing with the British Commander in Chief, that an equal Number of Cannon, and an equal quantity and kind of Stores, as he shall consent to exchange, shall be replaced

to his B Majesty, by the United States, at such time and place, as shall be fixed on by you for the purpose.

Having formed your arrangements with General Haldimand, you will be pleased to proceed, in such manner as you shall find best, to visit the several posts on the Frontier Territory of the United States, as far westward as to Detroit; view their different Situations, Strength and Circumstances; and, forming your Judgment of their relative position, and probable Advantage to the United States, you will report the same to me, with your Opinion of such of them as you shall think most expedient for the U States to retain and occupy; particularly, in passing the Lake Champlain, you will critically observe the Width of the Water at the northern End, and the Nature of the Ground adjoining; with a View to determine, whether there is any Spot, south of the 45th: Degree of North Latitude, and near our extreme Boundary, on which it will be convenient (should Congress judge it expedient) to erect fortifications which will command the Entrance from Canada into that Lake.

At Detroit you will find a very considerable Settlement, consisting mostly of French people from Canada; to these you will be pleased to intimate the fullest Sentiments of the good Disposition in Congress and the Inhabitants of the United States for their welfare and protection; expressing at the same time to them, our Expectations of finding the like good Disposition in them towards us; the post which we may establish there, and any future Settlements which may be formed in their Neighbourhood, by the Subjects of the United States. As the advanced season, or other unforeseen Accidents, may prevent the American Troops from getting to that place, before it may be convenient for the British to withdraw their Garrison from that post; You will in this Event, do well to engage some one or more of the respectable and well affected Inhabitants of the

District, to procure a Company of Militia (should there be any) or others, at the Expence of the United States, to take Charge of the Works and Buildings belonging to the Fortress; assuring them such reasonable pay therefor, as shall be deemed adequate to the Services, or which you may condition with them for. You will also make particular Enquiry, whether the farmers or merchants at Detroit are able and willing to supply an American Garrison at that post with provisions and other necessaries, and upon what Terms.

You will please to keep me informed as fully as you can, and as often as opportunity will permit, of the progress you make in the Execution of the Business committed to your Conduct.

Confiding perfectly in your general knowledge, good Sense, Judgment and Discretion, in the fullfillment of this Commission, I forbear any further detail of Instructions. But wish you success in your Negotiation, and pleasure and Security in the prosecution of your Tour.\*

[H.S.P.]

TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL  
FREDERICK HALDIMAND

Head Quarters on Hudsons River, July 12, 1783.

Sir: The Congress of the United States having instructed me to make the proper Arrangements with the Commanders in Chief of the British forces in America, for receiving possession of the posts in the United States occupied by the Troops of his Britannic Majesty, and from which his Majesty's Troops are to be withdrawn, agreably to the 7th Article of the provisional Treaty; I have to inform your Excellency that I have desired Major General the Baron de Steuben, who will have the Honor

\*In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

On July 17 Washington ordered Lieutenant Colonel Villefranche to attend Baron Steuben on his tour. This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

to deliver this Letter, to proceed for that purpose into Canada; and I have fully impowered and authorised him to form every Arrangement with your Excellency, which may be found necessary for receiving possession of the posts and fortresses on the Northwestern and Western Frontier of the territory of the United States now under your Direction. And I [beg you to be perswaded], that whatever Agreements this Officer shall form with your Excellency, respecting this Business, will be punctually observed on the part of the U States.

Baron Steuben is instructed to visit the posts within the Boundary of the United States upon the River St. Lawrence and the Lakes above, and to report to me his Opinion of the measures necessary for the garrisoning and Support of them. In this Tour, and in the Execution of this Business, I flatter myself he will receive the necessary passports from your Excellency, and derive such Aids as will enable him to fulfill the Objects of his Commission.

As a foreigner, and an Officer of Rank and Reputation, I beg leave to recommend the Baron to your Excellency's particular Notice and Attention; [as a Gentn. you will find him every way worthy of your Civilities.] I have the Honor etc.<sup>95</sup>

#### TO BARON RIEDESEL

Head Quarters, July 14, 1783.

Sir: I had the Satisfaction of receiving your polite Letter of the 21st of June by Lieut D'anier,<sup>96</sup> and the particular pleasure of complying with your request, by granting the passports you mentioned for that Gentleman, to go into N York, and to return again to Canada.

<sup>95</sup> The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

<sup>96</sup> Lieutenant D'Anieres, of the regiment De Specht, German allied troops.

Had this request needed any Apology (which I beg you to believe it did not) your very agreeable Congratulations on the happy return of Peace, With the benevolent wishes, which you are pleased to express for the future friendly Union and Inter-course of the two Countries, and for my own personal happiness and domestic Enjoyment, would have formed a most pleasing one. I pray you to be persuaded Sir! that my best and most devout Wishes, for your safe return to you own Country, attend you, as well as for your future happiness, prosperity, and Glory.

The Baron de Steuben will do me the favor to place this in your Hand; this Gentleman is instructed from me, to form some Arrangements with Genl Haldimand, respecting the Execution of the 7th Article of the provisional Treaty, and receiving possession of the posts now under his Direction and now in the occupation of the British Troops, which are ceded by Treaty to the U States.

As an Officer of Distinction and reputation, as a foreigner, and a Gentleman of agreeable and genteel Manners, I beg leave to recommend the Baron to your particular Attention and Civilities, persuading myself that your Goodness will afford him every Aid, in the prosecution of his Tour, and the Execution of his Commission, that shall fall within your power. With much respect etc."

#### TO PHILIP SCHUYLER

Head Quarters, Newburgh, July 15, 1783.

Dr. Sir: I have always entertained a great desire to see the northern part of this State before I returned to the Southward. The present irksome interval, while we are waiting for the

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"The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

definitive Treaty affords an opportunity of gratifying this inclination. I have therefore concerted with Governor Clinton to make a Tour to reconnoitre these places, where the most remarkable Posts were established, and the ground which became famous by being the Theatre of Action in 1777. On our return from thence, we propose to pass a cross to the Mowhawk River, in order to have a view of that tract of Country which is so much celebrated for the fertility of its Soil and the beauty of its Situation; we shall set out by water on friday the 18th. if nothing should intervene to prevent our Journey.

Mr. Dimler Asst. Qr. Mr. Genl who will have the honor of delivering this Letter, precedes us to make arrangements, and particularly to have some light Boats provided and transported to Lake George that we may not be delayed on our arrival there. I pray you, my Dear Sir, to be so good as to advise Mr Dimler in what manner to proceed in this business, to excuse the trouble I am about to give you, and to be persuaded that your kind information and direction to the bearer, will greatly encrease the obligations, with which I have the honor etc.<sup>98</sup>

TO THE OFFICER COMMANDING THE TROOPS  
AT SARATOGA

Head Quarters, July 15, 1783.

Sir: I have it in contemplation to make a Journey as far to the Northward as Crown point, and consequently shall want some light *Boats* provided in Lake George. Mr Dimler A. Qr Mr Gen has my Instructions to have them in readiness; I must request you will give him any assistance in your power, and that you will furnish such number of Men as may be necessary

<sup>98</sup> The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

to facilitate the business.<sup>99</sup> The remainder of the two Companies are to be held prepared to march at a moments notice, as I may probably have occasion for them. I am &c.<sup>1</sup>

## INSTRUCTIONS TO LIEUTENANT HENRY DIMLER

Head Quarters, July 15, 1783.

Sir: You are to take under your charge the Servants and Horses belonging to myself and Suite which will be committed to you, and proceed directly with them to Albany. You will there make provision for the Servants and Horses until my Arrival, and without loss of time wait upon General Schuyler for his advise and information, as to the best mode of effecting your principal business, which is to procure and transport three light Boats to Lake George. The Commanding Officer at Saratoga will lend you any Assistance in his power, and I rely upon your assiduity and exertion that the Boats will be in readiness so that we may not be delayed one moment at the Lake for want of the means of conveyance.<sup>1</sup>

### \*To DOCTOR JEAN PIERRE LE MAYEUR

Newburgh, July 16, 1783.

Sir: The Valse arrived safe; as the three articles<sup>2</sup> wch accompanied your card of the first Instt. also did but the latter did not get to hand till yesterday. I can only repeat my thanks to you for your great and constant attention to me, and wish for opportunities to shew my sense of them.

The small matters which were expected from Virginia are not yet received, and it is to be feared will never be found. I

<sup>99</sup> The troops at Saratoga consisted of two companies of the Rhode Island Regiment.

<sup>1</sup> The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

<sup>2</sup> Dental articles.

am going to make an excursion which will, I expect, employ fifteen or 18 days.

You will be pleased to receive further assurances of the pleasure I shall have in entertaining you at my House in Virginia, and in shewing you every Civility in my power in that State. I am etc.

**\*To DANIEL PARKER**

Newburgh, July 16, 1783.

Sir: The letters herewith inclosed will shew the Sum I am indebted to Colo. Henley,<sup>3</sup> and by what means it arose. I shall thank you for discharging it.

I have repeatedly called upon Mr. Smith<sup>4</sup> for the Amount of my Acct; as well for those Articles which you have procured for me in New York, as for those obtained from your Store at this place; I have not yet got it; tho I wish much to discharge the whole, that I may have nothing to settle (of a private nature) when the Definite Treaty arrives, and I am about to retire from my present Command and this part of the Country.

I congratulate you on your recovery from the Fever with which you were siezed in New York, and am etc.

**To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS**

Head Quarters, July 16, 1783.

Sir: Your Excellency's Letters of the 3d and 8th are received. The Judge Advocate was gone on by my Directions, before the hint you gave me in that of the 3d.

<sup>3</sup>Col. David Henley.

<sup>4</sup>Melancton Smith.



It would seem there has been some capital neglect, or Miscarriage in the transmission of the Act of Congress of the 12th of May. I never had the least Intimation of it, until the 7th instant, when I received it from the War Office. Baron Steuben is furnished with my Letters and Instructions, and will depart on his mission, as soon as possible.

The inclosed Memorial was handed to me, from some Officers of Hazens Regiment, Refugees from Canada;<sup>5</sup> anxious for their Relief from the most distressing Situation, and finding myself without the Means or the power of doing it, I beg leave to refer their Circumstances to the particular Attention and Regard of Congress; these with many others are the Men, who as they will say, have left their Country, their friends, their Substance, their all, in support of the Liberties of America; and have followed our fortunes thro' the various Scenes of a distressing Contest, untill they find it to have terminated in the happiest manner for all, but themselves. Some provision is certainly due to those people who now are exiled from their native Country and habitations, without any mention made of them in the Treaty, any Stipulation for their return, or any Means for their Subsistence in a country which their Arms have contributed to secure and establish. When Congress recollect the Encouragements, the promises and Assurances, which were published by them and their Orders, in Canada, in the Years 1775 and 6, I am persuaded they will take into their most serious Consideration the Case of those unhappy persons who placed Confidence in those proclamations, and make ample amends by some effectual provision for their Sufferings, patience

<sup>5</sup>A translation by Benjamin Walker of this memorial, in the *Washington Papers* under date of July 14, is indorsed by Trumbull: "Original in french sent to Congress 16th." The committee books of the Continental Congress show that this letter was referred on July 23 to James McHenry, Arthur Lee, and James Madison, who reported (July 26), but no record of this is found in the *Journals of the Continental Congress*.

and perseverance. I would not presume to dictate. But if Congress cannot procure funds for their Compensation and Subsistence from the ample Confiscations which are made within the different States, I would think a grant could be made to them from the unlocated Lands in the interior parts of our Territory and some means advanced, to place them on such a Tract; this perhaps might prove satisfactory, and would enable them to form a Settlement which may be beneficial to themselves and useful to the United States. I will say no more, but repeat my recommendations of their case to the grateful remembrance of Congress, and beg, that a speedy Attention may be given to their Application, which I have advised them to make without Delay.

Finding myself in most disagreeable Circumstances here, and like to be so, so long as Congress are pleased to continue me in this awkward Situation, anxiously expecting the Definitive Treaty, without Command and with little else to do, than to be teased with troublesome Applications and fruitless Demands, which I have neither the means or the power of satisfying; in this distressing Tedium, I have resolved to wear away a little Time, in performing a Tour to the Northward, as far as Tyconderoga and Crown point, and perhaps as far up the Mohawk River as fort Schuyler. I shall leave this place on Friday next, and shall probably be gone about two weeks, unless my Tour should be interrupted by some special recall. One Gentleman of my Family will be left here,<sup>6</sup> to receive any Letters on Commands, and to forward to me any Thing that shall be necessary. With great Respect etc.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>6</sup>Lieut. Col. Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

<sup>7</sup>The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

On July 16 Washington wrote to Maj. Gen. Robert Howe, that before the receipt of his letter of July 7 the Judge Advocate had set off to join Howe. "I hope that by this time you have got thro' this troublesome business." This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

## TO MAJOR GENERAL LOUIS LE BÈQUE DU PORTAIL

Head Quarters, July 18, 1783.

Sir: His Excellency being just sitting off on a tour to Albany and the upper posts,\* when your Letter by Majr. L'Enfant arrived, he directs me to thank you for the Respects you are pleased to express for him, and for your tenders of Service. At the same time to inform you, that the Object of the Barons' Commission is not of such nature, as in his Opinion, required the Assistance of an Engineer; but that it was at the Barons particular request, that he had consented one should attend him. At any rate, His Excellency, from what had passed in your former letters, had thort that you intended to remain in America but a little longer, and therefore did not conceive that you would undertake any Business which would require a length of Time; even if the Object in Canada had been of that importance, as to have needed the Assistance of an Engineer of your rank and Abilities. Most respectfully I am etc.<sup>10</sup>

\*On July 18 Washington left Newburgh, crossed the Hudson at Kinder Hook and traveled up the east bank of the river to Cohoes. The detailed account of the expenses of this tour, which is a copy in the writing of Martha Washington, does not give the dates on which he was at the different places mentioned. He stopped at the widow Javer's, the tavern at Fort Edward, and at Fort George; at Crown Point; Putnam's Point on Lake Champlain; Ball's town; a tavern 5 miles from Schenectady; a tavern at old Fort Johnson (or Johnston, Aikin, Montgomery County, New York); a tavern at, or near, Fort Rensselaer (Canajoharie); German Flats. There is also an item of the payment to Maj. Henry Glen (of Schenectady) of £38:2:0. In the *Washington Papers*, at the end of the year 1783, is filed a memorandum of account "of Cash laid out to the Westward for his Excellency Genl. Washington's family" in which Robert Lewis at Schenectady was paid £4.8.0. for stores and Alexander Mercer, the same, £2.7.0. Foxes bill at Fort Herkimer was £3.6.3. Doctor Petrie was paid 6s. for a horse; Lieutenant Thornton £1.18.0 for 2 sheep and some butter. Mr. Warmmout's bill, including horse hire, was £15. Mr. Meebies, 16s. 9d. Adam Leip was paid £1.13.9 for horsekeeping and John B. Van Eps, for ferryage, £1.4.0.

Baker's *Itinerary of Washington* states that Washington's return from Fort Schuyler was via Wood Creek, Otsego Lake, and the Mohawk River to Albany, which he reached August 4. He arrived at Newburgh the afternoon of August 5.

<sup>10</sup>Baron Steuben.

<sup>11</sup>The draft is in the writing of and is signed: "[Jonathan] T[rumbull] Jr."

On July 23 Trumbull wrote to the Secretary at War that the Delaware officers had accepted the commutation of pay proposed by the resolve of Congress of March 23. Trumbull's draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

## TO COLONEL TIMOTHY PICKERING

Saratoga, July 26, 1783.

Sir: A Number of Batteaux will be wanting to transport the necessary provisions and Stores to the Garrisons which may be kept on the Western Waters I must therefore desire that you will retain all such as are suitable for that purpose and have them put into repair. I am &c.

P. S. They need be put in no other repair than what is necessary to transport them to Schenectady; they must be overhauled afterwards.<sup>11</sup>

## TO WILLIAM DUER AND DANIEL PARKER

Saratoga, July 26, 1783.

Gentlemen: I find it indispensably necessary to the public service, that a Magazine of Provisions should be laid up immediately at the Post of Fort Herkemer, I am therefore to desire you will without delay cause a sufficient number of rations to supply 500 Men for 10 Months to be deposited there, the Meat should be either salted Beef or Pork or both and that of the best quality and well preserved; whatever expence may be incurred which is not required by or in conformity to the Contract in laying up this supply must be allowed by the public; and as the exact performance of this requisition will be of great importance you will be pleased to pay the earliest attention to the subject, and inform me with your doings thereon. I am etc.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>11</sup>In the writing of Benjamin Walker; the P. S. is in that of David Humphreys. From a photostat of the original through the kindness of Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, of New York City.

<sup>12</sup>The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

TO THE MAGISTRATES AND SUPERVISORS OF  
TRYON COUNTY

[August 1, 1783.]

Gentlemen: I receive with the greatest pleasure your congratulations on the happy conclusion of a Peace;<sup>13</sup> an Event which as it establishes the liberties and Independence of America must be pleasing to all, but particularly to the worthy Inhabitants of this County who have had so large a portion of the Calamities of war.

In the course of my tour thro a small part of this County I have had an opportunity of observing more particularly the severe distress that has fallen on the Inhabitants by the cruel devastations of the Enemy; the patience and fortitude with which they have borne these distresses, and their very spirited conduct throughout the whole of the War have done them the highest honor, and will give the Inhabitants of Tryon Co. a distinguished place in the History of this revolution.

Accept Gentlemen my thanks for your kind wishes for my welfare be assured it will be my earnest prayer that by the blessing of Providence on the fine Country you possess you may soon be enabled to recover your former ease, and to enjoy that happiness you have so well deserved. I am etc.<sup>14</sup>

TO JOHN GABRIEL TEGELAAR

Head Quarters, New York State, August 2, 1783.

Sir: I have been honoured by the receipt of your very polite Letter, accompanied with the 6 Kegs of Herrings, which have

<sup>13</sup>The original address from the Magistrates and Supervisors is dated Aug. 1, 1783, and signed by Christopher P. Yates, clerk. It is in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>14</sup>The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

been presented to me by the Patriotic Society of the City of Enkhuyzen, which came safe to me a few Days ago, and prove very fine of their kind. For this agreeable and very honourable token of respect and Regard, I beg you to present my most grateful thanks to the Society; and that you will believe that the value of this present is much enhanced by the very polite and obliging manner in which you have been pleased to convey it to me.

This Country, Sir, so highly favoured of Providence, has great reason to rejoice in the good wishes and kind assistance of the Freedom-loving Sons of your Republic; to whom we feel ourselves much indebted for their patriotic interposition in our behalf.

May the Union, so happily commenced, between their Sister States be mutually supported 'till the latest Ages! May our Interests as our sentiments be durably connected, and may that intercourse of Friendship and commerce which we mutually promise each other, be perpetuated by reciprocal Benefits.

May Heaven, whose propitious smiles have hitherto watched over the freedom of your republic still Guard her Liberties with the most sacred protection. And while I thus regard the welfare of your Country at large, permit me to assure you, that I shall feel a very particular desire that Providence may ever smile on your private happiness and domestic pleasures. I am &c.<sup>15</sup>

TO BARON VAN DER CAPELLEN DE POL

Head Quarters, State of New York, August 2, 1783.

Sir: The very acceptable present of the patriotic Society of the City of Enkhuyzen came safe to me a few Days ago.<sup>16</sup> By this agreeable token of their respect and Regard, I feel myself

<sup>15</sup> From the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

<sup>16</sup> His letter to Washington, under date of Nov. 22, 1782, is from Zwolle, Holland.

highly honoured, and it was a very particular enhancement of the pleasure I felt on this occasion, that it was accompanied with a Letter from you.

I feel some pain that I cannot give that encouragement to the enlargement of this Branch of their business which that Patriotic Society seem to expect; since our Bays, Harbours and Rivers are remarkably abounding in this and the various kinds of Fish, which prove a present blessing to our People, and will probably be improved into a source of future Wealth. In other Branches however I fondly promise myself that our connexion will be enlarged into a most fruitful Scene of mutual interests and reciprocal benefits. To this happy end, my best endeavours and most friendly disposition will not be wanting.

Your Nation, Sir, and your Character in particular, have indeed merited the confidence and regard of the confederated States of America, and they will long I trust be considered with grateful veneration. The Union so happily commenced, will I hope be cultivated by both with the utmost care and Attention, and I pray to Heaven, that it may be as durable as mutual Interests and reciprocal benefits can render it.

Permit me, Sir, most sincerely and cordially to rejoice with you in the reestablishment of your Honors and usefulness and to felicitate, not you only, but your Country, in whose cause you have proved yourself so noble and efficacious an Advocate, in this happy and most honourable event; An event which in my Opinion, Argues well to the future Liberties and prosperity of the republic.

May Heaven long Bless your Country with the enjoyment of her liberty, the choicest Earthly favour; and may personal happiness and domestic pleasures, ever attend your footsteps through all your future Walks of Life. I have the honour etc.<sup>17</sup>

<sup>17</sup> From the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

TO JOHN BARCLAY & COMPANY<sup>18</sup>

Headquarters, August 2, 1783.

Gentlemen: I am much obliged by the Care you have taken to forward to me the Letters from the Baron de Capellan<sup>19</sup> and the six Kegs of Herrings from the patriotic Society of Enkhuyzen, which came to me a few days ago.

May I beg the favor that You will continue your kind Offices in forwarding for me the inclosed Letter to the Baron acknowledging the favor of the Present made me. I have the Honor etc.<sup>20</sup>

## TO THE PATRIOTIC SOCIETY OF ENKHUYSEN

Head Quarters, State of New York, August 2, 1783.

Gentlemen: I find myself so happy, as to be honoured with a Letter from your *patriotic Society* of the City of Enkhuyzen accompanied with one from the Baron De Capellan de Pol, that worthy Patriot and warm friend of the Liberties of mankind in general and in particular of your and our republican States, whose name has been long known and revered in this Country.

With these Letters came the Six Kegs of Herring, with which your Society have been pleased to honour me, a very grateful and acceptable present. I beg you, Gentlemen, to be persuaded that I receive this token of your Respect, with the highest gratification; and beg that you will favour me by presenting, in the warmest manner, my most respectful thanks to your right worthy and honourable Society for this mark of their Esteem

<sup>18</sup> Merchants of Philadelphia.

<sup>19</sup> Johan Derk, Baron Van der Capellen de Pol, member of the House of Nobles, Province of Overijssel, Holland.

<sup>20</sup> From a contemporary copy in the writing of Richard Varick.



and distinction, informing them, that it is the wish of my Heart, that the happy Union which has been effected between the two Sister Republic's may be perfectly cemented by the Ties of Interest and affection to the latest time although this particular Branch of business may not perhaps meet with that enlargement from this Country, which your Society may expect (our Rivers and coasts almost every where abounding with this and other kinds of valuable fish) yet other Branches of intercourse between the two Countries will undoubtedly take place, which will mutually contribute to the Interests of both. In this and in every other thing which may be useful to the benefit of your Society and Republic they may depend on my good disposition; and may Heaven, from the Stores of her Bounty, kindly shower on your Country, your City, and your persons, all those blessings which you so obligingly express for my Country and for me. I am &c.<sup>21</sup>

#### TO BARON STEUBEN

Fort Rensselaer, August 3, 1783.

Dear Baron: Mr. Cassady<sup>22</sup> (who will have the honour of delivering this Letter to you) being a Gentleman of respectable Character, and having been long resident at Detroit, is dispatched by me to that place, in order to find out the dispositions of the Inhabitants and to make any inquiries which may be useful to you on your arrival. I am the rather induced to adopt this measure for fear you should be delayed a considerable time on your Journey and from an apprehension that considering the advanced season of the year, the uncertainty when the Definitive treaty will arrive and our difficulties of a pecuniary nature, we shall not be able to send any Garrison to Detroit

<sup>21</sup> From the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

<sup>22</sup> James Cassady (Cassady).

for this Winter. It will in that case be important to make the best arrangements in our power for the preservation of the Post, when it shall be evacuated by the British; and I know no possible means of doing this, but by engaging the Inhabitants, to yield their Assistance for the purpose, Mr. Cassady can bring you acquainted with their Characters and many other matters which may be necessary to be known by you. Relying on your discretion and wishing you success in all your Negotiations, I remain etc.<sup>28</sup>

\*To THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN, AND COMMON-  
ALTY OF ALBANY

Albany, August 4, 1783.

Gentlemen: I accept with heart-felt satisfaction your affectionate congratulations on the restoration of Peace, and the formal recognition of the Independence of the United States. We may indeed ascribe these most happy and glorious Events to the Smiles of Providence, the Virtue of our Citizens, and the bravery of our Troops, aided by the powerful interposition of our Magnanimous and illustrious Ally.

For the favorable Sentiments you are pleased to express of my Agency in this Revolution, and for your benevolent wishes for my personal felicity I entreat you, Gentlemen! to receive my warmest acknowledgments.

While I contemplate with inexpressible pleasure the future tranquillity and Glory of our common Country, I cannot but take a particular interest in the anticipation of the encreasing prosperity and greatness of this Antient and respectable City of Albany, from whose Citizens I have received such distinguished tokens of their approbation and Affection. [H.S.P.]

<sup>28</sup>From the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

## \*To JOHN SULLIVAN

[Albany, August 4, 1783.]

Sir: The Count del Vermé, who will present you with this Letter, is an Italian Nobleman of Family and distinction, on his Travels thro' America. He comes warmly recommended by our Ministers at Paris, and from the opportunities I have had to form an opinion of him, does honor to his high birth and Education. These considerations, Sir, must be my Apology for the liberty I take in recommending him to your Civilities and Attention. I am &c.<sup>44</sup>

## To LIEUTENANT COLONEL MARINUS WILLETT

Albany, August 4, 1783.

Sir: As I consider it highly expedient to make every preparatory arrangement in our power for occupying the Posts which will be ceded to us upon the Western Waters, so soon as they shall be evacuated by the British, I must request your attention that the following Measures may be carried into execution, as fully as your means will admit, and with as little delay as possible.

In the first place, you will be pleased to employ a sufficient number of Men in opening the Road and repairing the Bridges from Fort Herkimer to Fort Schuyler, so that it may be

<sup>44</sup>This same letter was addressed to John Langdon and Nathaniel Tracy, and to Tracy's letter was added: "Should he stand in need of Money, be so good as to advance it to him, and his bills will be immediately paid."

Practically the same letter as above, but slightly briefer, was also addressed to Govrs. Jonathan Trumbull, William Greene, and President Meshech Weare. The letter to Greene is now (1934) in the possession of William Roelker, of East Greenwich, R. I.

On August 4 Washington wrote to George Augustine Washington, who was then in Rhode Island, introducing Verme. "I am thus far on my return to Newburgh, where I shall hope to find a letter from you indicative of your better health." This letter was printed in the *Magazine of American History*, vol. 5, p. 126.

practicable for Waggon and sleighs; you will also endeavour to remove such obstacles and make such improvements, in the difficult parts of the Water Communication, as you may be able to accomplish, in order that Boats may pass with less impediment, than at present, into the Oneida Lake. In the mean time you should attempt to establish a place of deposit for Provisions Stores &c under protection of one or two small Block Houses, at the Portage between the Mohawk River and the Wood Creek, in such a position and in such manner as you may judge best calculated to effect the object I have in view, and which I have already more fully explained to you. For the speedy completion of these Works, and whatever other arrangements may occur to you, as being necessary for the foregoing purposes, I shall confide in your discretion and Zeal for the service: Inducements for exertion need not be added, when we consider the advanced season, the great distance and unavoidable difficulties of transportation, the uncertainty of the time when the Definitive Treaty will arrive, and the necessity there will be of taking possession of these Posts, immediately after that event shall take place.

Such quantities of Tents, Tools, and other Articles as may be wanting, the Qur Masr. General will furnish, upon your giving a Memorandum to Mr. Dimler At. Qr. Mr. Genl. who is now in this City.<sup>25</sup>

### TO COLONEL TIMOTHY PICKERING

Head Quarters, Newburgh, August 6, 1783.

Sir: I wrote to you from Saratoga on the 26th Ulto to have all the Boats fit to be used on the western Waters, repaired for that service; but since my return from the Northward I am

<sup>25</sup> From the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

informed the number will be very inferior to my expectation [especially as I directed early in the year to have them got in repair and recollect no counter order since] that time. I have therefore to request that 125 Batteaux (including those now fit for service in the public possession) may be provided by Contract or in some other effectual way at the earliest possible period. Some Money will also be absolutely necessary for defraying the expence of transportation and for other contingent purposes in your Department [particularly for] Boards, Materials to [build a Magazine at the carrying place between the Mohawk Rivr. and Wood Creek].

I think it expedient to advise you that in establishing the Garrisons for the western Posts, and indeed in making the previous Arrangements, the service will be considered of so great importance, as to require your presence or that of some very able and active Asst. as far as the Wood Creek in order to superintend the business of the Department, to furnish the Means of transportation at the Carrying Places, and to expedite the movements with the greatest Energy and dispatch.

As I presume the business on which you went to Philadelphia must be compleated before this time, I expect your return with great impatience, and that you will come prepared for the instant execution of the services before mentioned, which are of the greatest consequence, and demand your earliest attention. It is probable a Contract for the Boats may be made on the Credit of this State, and that the Money may be eventually advanced by it, for that and perhaps for other purposes which may be deemed indispensable for the promotion of measures so popular and interesting to the State as those in contemplation. I am etc.<sup>26</sup>

<sup>26</sup> The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

## \*To JAMES McHENRY

Newburgh, August 6, 1783.

Dear Sir: After a tour of at least 750 Miles (performed in Nineteen days) I returned to this place yesterday afternoon, where I found your favor of the 31st. Ulto. intimating a resolution of Congress for calling me to Princeton, partly as it would seem, on my own Account, and partly for the purpose of giving Aid to Congress; but the President not having sent on the Resolution I am left ignorant of the particular objects Congress have in view, any further than can be collected from the expressions of his and your Letters so far then as they may relate to a Peace establishment my Sentiments in the freest and fullest manner have been communicated to a Committee of which Colonel Hamilton was Chairman. If the principal object in view, by my attendance, respects Congress I cannot hesitate a moment to make the earliest compliance in my power; but if the resolution is calculated for my convenience, I cannot say that it will render my situation more eligible than the present; especially taking into consideration the inconvenience of a removal for so small a distance, and a new establishment of a Household which must be formed in consequence of breaking up the menial part of my family here.

My principal intention in my Letter of the 16th. Ulto. was to express the disagreeableness of my present situation, waiting as I am, with little business and less Command for the Definitive Treaty; when I have so anxious a desire of retiring from Public business and reestablishing myself in domestic Life where my private concerns call loudly for my presence.

I wish you therefore, my dear Sir, to transmit to me by the earliest opportunity, a Copy of the resolution, with an explanation of the particular Reasons and motives which have influenced

Congress to pass it, that I may be enabled to regulate my conduct accordingly. With the greatest esteem, etc.<sup>27</sup>

### TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, August 6, 1783.

Sir: Your Excellency's several favors, of the 17th, 24th and 31st of July, were received at Head Quarters during my Absence, and have been presented to me on my Return last Evening, which I effected by Water from Albany.

My Tour having been extended as far Northward as Crown point, and Westward to Fort Schuyler and its District, and my movements have been pretty rapid, my Horses, which are not yet arrived, will be so much fatigued that they will need some days to recruit. This Circumstance, with some Arrangements which will be necessary, previous to my leaving this place, will prevent my complying with the pleasure of Congress, intimated in your Letter of 31st, so soon perhaps as may be expected. In the mean Time, your Excellency will have an Opportunity of transmitting to me the Resolution<sup>28</sup> mentioned, that I may be acquainted with the Objects Congress have in view by my Attendance at Princeton, and that I may prepare myself to fulfill their Expectations to the utmost of my power.<sup>29</sup> With great Regard etc.<sup>30</sup>

<sup>27</sup> From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by William W. Cohen, of New York City.

<sup>28</sup> The resolve of July 28.

<sup>29</sup> Boudinot answered (August 12): "The Resolution of Congress requested by your Excellency was forwarded several days since, but it cannot answer your expectations. Congress wished to have your Excellency's personal aid at forming the peace arrangement whenever that Report was called up; but your disagreeable situation arising from the unexpected and unaccountable delay of the definitive Treaty, hastened the measure of requesting your Excellency's attendance. . . . Congress . . . have directed a House and standing Furniture to be taken for your Excellency withing three or four miles of this place." Boudinot's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>30</sup> In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

## TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, August 6, 1783.

Sir: I was the more particularly induced by two considerations, to make the Tour which in my Letter of the 16th Ult. I informed Congress I had in contemplation, and from which I returned last evening; the one was an inclination of seeing the Northern and Western Posts in this State, with those places which have been the Theatre of important Military transactions; the other a desire to facilitate (as far as is in my power) the operations which will be necessary for occupying the Posts which are ceded by the Treaty of Peace, as soon as they shall be evacuated by the British Troops.

Aware of the difficulties we should have to encounter in accomplishing the last mentioned object, on account of the advanced Season, and the want of money to give vigor to our movements, I inserted a clause in the Instructions of the Baron Steuben (a Copy of which I have the honor to inclose) authorizing him in case these difficulties should become insurmountable, or in case the arrival of the Definitive Treaty should be delayed beyond expectation, to agree with some of the respectable and well affected Inhabitants of Detroit to preserve the Fortifications and public Buildings at that place, until such time as a Garrison could be sent with provisions and Stores, sufficient to take and hold possession of them; the propriety of this measure has appeared in a more forcible point of view since I have been up the Mohawk River and taken a view of the situation of things in that quarter, for upon a carefull inquiry, I find it is the opinion of those who are best acquainted with the distances and communications, that nothing short of the greatest exertion, and a sum adequate to the transportation, can even at this Season furnish us with Boats and enable us to



forward Provisions and Stores sufficient for a Garrison to be supported at Detroit during the ensuing Winter; and without an immediate supply of money that it would be in vain to make the attempt.

Influenced by this information, believing there was not a moment to be lost, and apprehending the Baron Steuben might be retarded in his progress by some unforeseen event; I engaged at Fort Rensselaer a Gentleman whose name is Cassety, formerly a resident at Detroit, and who is well recommended, to proceed without loss of time, find out the disposition of the Inhabitants and make every previous inquiry which might be necessary for the information of the Baron on his arrival, that he should be able to make such final arrangements as the circumstances might appear to justify. This seemed to be the best alternative, on failure of furnishing a Garrison of our own Troops; which for many reasons would be infinitely the most eligible mode, if the season and our means would possibly admit.

I have at the same time endeavoured to take the best preparatory steps in my power for supplying all the Garrisons on the Western Waters by the Provision Contract; I can only form my Magazine at Fort Herkimer on the German flats, which is 32 Miles by land and almost fifty by Water from the carrying place between the Mohawk River and the Wood Creek; the route by the former is impracticable in the present state for Carriages and by the other extremely difficult for Batteaux as the River is very much obstructed with fallen and floating Trees from the long disuse of the navigation. That nothing however which depends upon me might be left undone, I have directed Ten months Provision for 500 Men to be laid up at Fort Harkimer; and have ordered Colo. Willet (an active and good Officer commanding the State Troops of this State) to

repair the Roads, remove the obstructions in the River, and as far as can be effected by the labour of the Soldiers, build Houses for the reception of the Provisions and Stores at the Carrying place, in order that the whole may be in perfect readiness to move forward so soon as the Arrangements shall be made with General Haldimand. I shall give instructions to Majr General Knox to have such Ordnance and Stores forwarded to Albany as, in the present View of Matters, may be judged necessary for the Western Posts, and I will also write to the Quarter Master General by this conveyance on the subject of Batteaux and the other Articles which may be required from his Department; however without money to provide some Boats and to pay the expence of transportation it will be next to impossible to get these things even to Niagara. I have the honor etc.<sup>31</sup>

#### TO THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE

Head Quarters, August 6, 1783.

Sir: I thank you for the Communication which you have been pleased to make to me under the 11th. of July. It was handed to me on my return last evening from a Tour I have been making to the Northward and Westward, as far as Crown point and Fort Schuyler, to view the Posts and Country in that part of the United States's Territory.

The anticipations you have been obliged to make are indeed great, and your Circular Letter to the States<sup>32</sup> on the occasion, appears to me sufficient, if any thing of the kind can be so, to arouse their attention to the necessity of your Circumstances, I most sincerely wish it may have the desired effect.

<sup>31</sup> In the writing of Benjamin Walker. The letter was read in Congress on September 10 and referred to James Duane, Richard Peters, Daniel Carroll, Benjamin Hawkins, and Arthur Lee.

<sup>32</sup> Of July 11. A contemporary copy is in the *Washington Papers*.

In consequence of my Tour to the Northward, the Qur. Mr. General will have my Orders to prepare Batteaux and other means of Transportation to the upper Posts, of the Cannon, Stores and Provisions which will be absolutely necessary for possessing and maintaining them. To effect this, some Money will be necessary, and I give you this Information, that a demand will probably be made on you for the purpose.

The State of New York who are deeply interested in the security of these Posts, and effecting this business, may perhaps be prevailed on to furnish the necessary sums, to be placed to General Account, they will probably exert themselves in this case preferably to any other. I give you this hint and leave its improvemt to you.

Knowing your situation, I am pained when necessity obliges me to make any application for Money. But this purpose, is of so great importance to the Interests of the United States and of so urgent necessity, that if the sums required cannot be obtained in the way I have hinted, I must entreat you to give every Assistance to Colo. Pickering that shall be necessary. I am &c.<sup>83</sup>

#### TO COUNTESS OF HUNTINGDON<sup>84</sup>

Head Quarters, August 10, 1783.

[My Lady: Within the course of a few days] I have received the Letter you was pleased to Honor me with from Bath, of the 20th of febr'y.<sup>85</sup> and have to express my respectful Thanks to your Goodness, for the marks of Confidence and Esteem contained therein.

<sup>83</sup>From the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

<sup>84</sup>Selina Hastings, Countess of Huntingdon, wife of Theophilus Hastings, ninth Earl of Huntingdon, was the founder of "Lady Huntingdon's Connexion," and an intimate with the Wesleys. She was a member of the first Methodist Society in Fetter Lane, 1739; was 76 years of age in 1783. (See Washington's letter to Richard Henry Lee, Feb. 8, 1785, *post.*)

<sup>85</sup>Not now found in the *Washington Papers*.

Your [Ladyships] benevolent Designs toward the Indian Nations, claim my particular Attention, and to further so laudable an Undertakg will afford me much pleasure, so far as my Situation in Life, surrounded with many and arduous Cares will admit. To be named as an Executor of your Intentions, may perhaps disappoint your [Ladyships] Views; but so far as my general Superintendence, or incidental Attention can contribute to the promotion of your Establishment, you may command my Assistance.

My Ancestry being derived from Yorkshire in England, it is more than probable that I am entitled to that honorable Connection, which you are pleased to mention; independent however of this privelidge, the Veneration with which your [Ladyships] Character, heretofore known, has impressed me, justly entitled you to rank high in my Esteem.<sup>36</sup> The same Sentiments of respect and regard lead Mrs Washington to thank you for the distinguishd mention you are pleased to make of her. [With great considn. etc.]<sup>37</sup>

\*TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL ROBERT STEWARD

State of New York, August 10, 1783.

Dear Sir: I received with much pleasure by the last Mail from Philadelphia, your favor of the 19th. of April from London. For the Affectionate, and flattering expressions contained therein you will please to accept my warmest and most grateful acknowledgments.

This Letter removed an apprehension wch. I had long laboured under, of your having taken your departure for the Land of Spirits. How else could I acct. for a Silence of fully 15 years;

<sup>36</sup>The common ancestor of the Countess and Washington was Lawrence Washington of Sulgrave.

<sup>37</sup>The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

for I think it must be at least that number since I heard *from* you, and not less than 9 or 10 since I could hear a tittle of you; altho' when I had opportunity, I made it a point to enquire.

You may be assured Sir that I should ever feel pleasure in rendering you any Service in my power; but I will not be so uncandid as to flatter your expectations, or give you any hope of my doing it in the way you seem to expect. In a Contest, long, arduous and painful; which has brought forth the abilities of men in Military and Civil life and exposed them with Halts abt. their Necks, not only to common danger but many of them to the verge of poverty and the very brink of ruin, justice requires, and a grateful Governmt. certainly will bestow, those places of honor and profit which necessity must create upon those who have risked life fortune and Health to support its cause; but independent of these considerations I have never interfered in any Civil Appointments; and I only wait (and with anxious impatience) the arrival of the Definitive Treaty, that I may take leave of my Military Employments and by bidding adieu to Public life, for ever, enjoy the Shades of retirement that ease and tranquillity to which, for more than Eight years, I have been an entire stranger and for which a Mind which has been constantly on the stretch during that period and perplexed with a thousand embarrassing Circumstances, oftentimes without ray of light to guide it; stands much in need.

Gratitude to a Nation to whom I think America owes much, and an ardt. desire to see the Country and Customs of the French People, are strong inducemts. to make a visit to France; but a consideration more powerful than these will I dare say, be an insuperable Bar to such a tour. An impaired fortune (much injured by this Contest) must turn me into those walks of retirement, where perhaps the consciousness of having

discharged to the best of my Abilities the great trust reposed in me and the duty I owed my Country must supply the place of other gratifications and may perhaps afford as rational and substantial entertainment as the gayer scenes of a more enlarged theatre.

I shall always be happy to see you at Mt Vernon. Mrs. Washington who enjoys but a very moderate share of health, unites in best wishes for your health and prosperity with Dr. Sir, etc.

### TO GEORGE MARTIN

Head Quarters, August 10, 1783.

Sir: So long a Course of Time as you mention, had indeed obscured the Remembrance of our former Acquaintance, 'till the Letter<sup>88</sup> you have favored me with, bro't the recollections of your Name to my Mind. Your good Sense has furnished me with an Apology should any be needed; and the Occasion which introduces this renewal of former Times, is most pleasing indeed.

Your Congratulations to our happy-fated Country, are very agreeable, and your Expressions of personal Regard for me, claim my sincerest Thanks, as do your Exertions in favor of our righteous Cause, now so happily terminated.

I cannot but join with you in my most earnest prayers, that these States may be blessed with Wisdom equal to the arduous Task of rightly formg the Establishment of their New Empire. And while I thus express my Wishes in favor of my Native Country, I would felicitate the Kingdom of Ireland on their Emancipation from British Controul, and extend my pious Entreaties, that Heaven may establish them in a happy and

<sup>88</sup> Martin's letter, dated Mar. 1, 1783, was from Dublin, Ireland, but is not now found in the *Washington Papers*.

perpetuated Tranquility, enjoying a freedom of Legislation, and an unconfined Extension of Trade, that connecting Link, which binds together the remotest Countries.

It is at present very uncertain how far the Connection of these States with distant Courts, may be extended, or what Appointments of this Nature may be made; their poverty, with the heavy Debt contracted during the Period of their Troubles, must for a Time, lead them to Oeconomise in every Way possible; nor can I say how far I may be instrumental, should Appointments be necessary in procuring what you wish. [I only wait the arrival of the Definitive Treaty to bid adieu to Public life and the shades of retirement to enjoy undisturbed that tranquility and repose which is necessary to unbend and give relaxation to a Mind wch. has been embarrassed by a thousd. perplexing circumstances during a painful contest of 8 years.]

Your poem is very acceptable, as it not only displays your Genius, but exhibits Sentiments favorable to the Liberties of Mankind, and expressive of the Benevolence of your Heart. I am &c.<sup>39</sup>

### TO REVEREND JACOB DUCHÉ

Head Quarters, August 10, 1783.

Sir: I have received your Letter of the 2d. of April,<sup>40</sup> and reflecting on its Contents, I cannot but say that I am heartily sorry for the Occasion which has produced it, personal Enmity I bear none, to any Man; so far therefore as your Return to this Country depends on my private Voice, [it would be given in favor of it with cheerfulness.] But removed as I am from the

<sup>39</sup>The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

<sup>40</sup>Not now found in the *Washington Papers*.

people and the policy of the State in which you formerly resided and to whose determination your case must be submitted, It [is my Duty whatevr. may be my Inclinatn. to] leave its decision to its constitutional Judges; [should this be agreeable to your wishes it cannot fail to meet my entire approbation.] I am etc.<sup>41</sup>

### TO DAVID BROOKS

Head Quarters, August 10, 1783.

Sir: It will be essential to the Public service, to furnish a Corps of 500 Men with the following Articles of Clothing Vizt for each Non Commissioned Officer and Private: One Blanket Great Coat, or good Watch Coat. One Waist Coat with Sleeves (or Uniform Coat.) One Vest. One pr. Woolen Overalls. One pr. Breeches. two pr. Stockings. One pr. Socks. One Woolen Cap. One pr. Mits. two Shirts. two pr. Shoes, with two pr. Soles and Heels or three pr. Shoes.

As these things will all be wanted in less than a Month from this time, you will please to inform me which of the Articles you have it now in your power to furnish; and you will make application for the remainder without a moments loss of time; informing the Head of your Department, that unless the full supply can be obtained in the time before specified, the measures which have been concerted for Garrisoning the Posts on the Western Waters may be entirely frustrated; as it will be impossible to send any Stores to them after the Troops shall have moved for their destination. By representations I have had, I should suppose all the deficient Articles, might be purchased very cheap, and at a long Credit in New York. I am etc.<sup>42</sup>

<sup>41</sup>The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

<sup>42</sup>From the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress.



## TO THE MASSACHUSETTS SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Head Quarters, August 10, 1783.

Gentlemen: The Address of so respectable a Body as the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, congratulating me on so auspicious an Event as the Return of Peace,<sup>a</sup> cannot fail to affect me with the highest pleasure and gratification.

Be assured Gentlemen, that, through the many and complicated vicissitudes of an arduous Conflict, I have ever turned my Eye, with a fixed Confidence on that superintendg. Providence which governs all Events: and the lively Gratitude I now feel, at the happy termination of our Contest, is beyond my Expression.

If, dependg on the Guidance of the same Allwise Providence, I have performed my part in this great Revolution, to the acceptance of my fellow Citizens, It is a source of high satisfaction to me; and forms an additional Motive of Praise to that Infinite Wisdom, which directs the Minds of Men. This Consideration will attend me in the Shades of retirement, and furnish one of the most pleasing Themes of my Meditation.

So great a revolution as this Country now experiences, doubtless ranks high in the Scale of human Events, and in the Eye of Omnipotence is introductive to some noble Scenes of future Grandeur to this happy fated Continent. May the States have Wisdom to discern their true Interests at this important period!

Impressed with sentiments of Gratitude for your benevolent Expressions for my personal Happiness and prosperity, I can make you no better return, than to pray, that Heaven, from the

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<sup>a</sup>This address, under date of July 10, 1783, is in the *Washington Papers*.

Stores of its Munificence, may shower its choicest blessings on you Gentlemen, and the People of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and to entreat that Our Liberties, now so happily established, may be continued in perfect Security, to the latest posterity. With Sentiments of high Veneration etc.<sup>44</sup>

### TO REUBEN HARVEY<sup>45</sup>

Head Quarters, August 10, 1783.

Sir: I am honored with the care of transmitting to you the inclosed Resolution of Congress,<sup>46</sup> expressing the Sense which that August Body entertains of your Goodness to the American Prisoners in Ireland.

Impressed as I am, with Sentiments of Gratitude to you, for this Expression of your Benevolence, I feel a very particular gratification in conveying to you the Thanks of the Sovereign Power of the United States of America, on an Occasion which, while it does honour to Humanity, stamps a Mark of particular Distinction on you.

Wishg you the Enjoyment of Health, with every attendant Blessing, I beg you to be persuaded that I am, etc.<sup>44</sup>

### TO COLONEL TIMOTHY PICKERING

Head Quarters, August 10, 1783.

Sir: A Detachment of about 500 Men is to be sent to Garrison the Western Posts, a supply of Camp Equipage, also a considerable quantity of good Axes and Hatchets, with a few

<sup>44</sup>The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

This reply to the Address of the Legislature was transmitted to Samuel Adams, then President of the Massachusetts Senate, in a brief note of August 10, the draft of which is in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>45</sup>A merchant in Cork, Ireland.

<sup>46</sup>Of July 18, 1783.

sets of Blacksmiths and Carpenters Tools will be wanted for the Troops which may be employed in this service. I must request you will immediately have these things provided or repaired in the best manner, together with whatever other stores and Apparatus may be required from the Qur. Masters Department, to accommodate this Corps for ten Months from the present period. I am etc.

P. S. A few Intrenching Tools will also be necessary.<sup>47</sup>

#### TO DOCTOR JOHN COCHRAN

Head Quarters, August 10, 1783.

Sir: A supply of Medicines and Hospital Stores will be wanted to serve a Corps of 500 Men for Ten Months. It is my desire you will have as accurate an Estimate formed, as the nature of the case will admit, and that you will have the most efficacious measures immediately adopted for providing, arranging and packing up, in the best possible Order, all Articles included in it.

As the preservation of the health of the Troops and perhaps the very existence of the Posts, which may be established on the Western Waters, will depend very much on this arrangement, I shall rely on your Activity and precision in having the business executed in the most effectual and satisfactory manner. I am etc.<sup>47</sup>

#### TO DOCTOR JOHN COCHRAN

Head Quarters, August 11, 1783.

Dear Sir: It was not 'till Yesterday that I received your favor of the 25th of June. I now acknowledge the receipt of it, and

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<sup>47</sup>From the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

thank you very sincerely for the kind Expressions of Benevolence and regard which you are pleased to extend to me; And to assure you, that I shall retain a cheerfull remembrance of past Services, and wish you every felicity in your future Life.

I take pleasure in sending you the Certificate requested. And am with much Regard etc.<sup>48</sup>

### CERTIFICATE TO DOCTOR JOHN COCHRAN

Head Quarters, Newburgh, August 11, 1783.

This certifies that Doctor John Cochran, during the present War, has been in the Service of the United States, acting in different medical Capacities, untill the 17th of January 1781, when he was appointed Director of the Military Hospitals. That during the most of the Time, he has been under my immediate Inspection and Command; and in the various Stations in which he has acted, has discharged their several duties, with that Attention, Skill and Fidelity, as have gained my Approbation.<sup>49</sup>

### TO COLONEL TIMOTHY PICKERING

Head Quarters, August 12, 1783.

Sir: The Commander in Chief wishes it may be ascertained this day, how many Boats are or may be actually fit for service on the Western Waters; for if there are ten or more that can be got in readiness in a few days. His Excellency proposes that they should be carried to the Mohawk River as soon as possible, because some Boats will be wanted there sooner than any can be completed, which may be Contracted for hereafter. An Answer is requested as early as may be. I am etc.<sup>50</sup>

<sup>48</sup>The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

<sup>49</sup>In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. From a photograph of the original kindly furnished by the United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.

<sup>50</sup>From the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

## TO GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, August 12, 1783.

Dr. Sir: Since my return from the Northward I have made particular enquiry into the state of the Boats which may be rendered fit for service on the Western Waters, and find the number very small that are capable of being repaired, the expence of effecting which and transporting them to Schenectady it is imagined will equal or exceed the cost of building new Ones at that place.<sup>81</sup>

I have also written by the last Post to Congress, to the Superintendent of Finance, and the Qr Mastr. Genl on the subject of garrisoning the Western Posts, and that an advance of Money will be necessary for the purpose; but as it is uncertain when I may receive anrs to these Letters; as it is doubtful whether Money can then be supplied from the public Treasury to enable the Qr Master Genl to enter into a Contract for Boats and to defray the contingent expences of the operation; and as the Summer is so far advanced that unless measures are immediately adopted for building Batteaux, the Work cannot be completed before the cold weather will set in, prevent all communication on the Lakes, and compel us to give up to destruction the Fortifications which are to be ceded to us by the British; I find myself under the necessity of having recourse to your Excellency, and of requesting to be informed whether any Money can be furnished by this State for the before mentioned services; I have sent Col Humphrys to confer with you more fully on this important subject, to inform you what steps are

<sup>81</sup> On August 14 Humphreys wrote to Knox: "His Excellency . . . desires that such Men as are acquainted with the repairs of Boats may be employed under the Quarter Master's direction, in repairing those Batteaux which will be fit for service on the Western Waters. Those Boats will be wanted to proceed to Albany as soon as possible." Humphreys's letter is in the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

taking for occupying the Posts in the first instance, and to bear the result of your Excellency's determination to me.

Had the completion of this business been less interesting to the United States in general, or to this State in particular, I should not have felt so much anxiety, or pressed the execution of it with so much earnestness. This consideration will I am persuaded be a sufficient apology for troubling your Excellency with the present application; and will I flatter myself at the same time induce the State to lend such Aid to the Public as may be in its power. I have the honor etc.<sup>52</sup>

#### \*TO THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE

Newburgh, August 12, 1783.

Dear Sir: My outfit for the Army in 1775. the Expenditures on my Journey to Cambridge (in which those of General Lee, and both our Suits were included), and part of the Expences of my Household for some time after my arrival there was borne, as will appear by my Accts. (which are now ready for examination) and from the dates of the public advances to me, by my private purse; the amount of these Expenditures is yet due to me; as all the Money which I have received from the Public has been applied to and expended for public uses. I mention this matter now, previous to the Exhibition of my accts. because to make Some little preparation for my return home, I requested Colo. Biddle, hearing that Goods were under par in Philadelpa to purchase me some Articles of which my Estate stood much in need. this in part, he has done, to the amount, as pr. Bills, to £204:9:3, exclusive of his Commission; and cost of forwarding them to Virginia.

<sup>52</sup>The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

I depended on this part of my claim upon the public, to make these purchases and to answr. some other demands of me and shall be happy if it is in your power to serve me. My Accts. which I perswade myself will appear fair and very moderate, will shew that I am not asking of the Public, an advance of Money; but claiming as small part only of what it has had the use of for more than Eight years; with great esteem etc.<sup>53</sup>

\*To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Newburgh, August 12, 1783.

Dear Sir: I have received a call from Congress to repair to Princeton; whether for any special purpose, or generally to remain there till the definitive Treaty shall arrive, the resolve is not expressive. I mean therefore, if the intention of that body is not more fully explained in a few days, to go prepared for the latter so soon as I can adjust matters here, and Mrs. Washington's health (for at present she is exceedingly unwell) will allow her to undertake the Journey.

As a measure of this kind will remove me to a distance and may for a considerable time separte us, and prevent frequent personal Interviews; I should be much obliged to you for intimating to me, before I go, what will be necessary for me to do respecting our purchase of the Saratoga Springs. I have money now by me, and shall, at any time, be ready to answer your call

<sup>53</sup> Morris answered (August 20): "The Business mentioned in it does by no means fall within my Cognizance but is purely in your own Discretion. You may indeed by the Exhibition of your Account at the Treasury bring it under my notice but this is exactly what I would advise not to do because as the Ballance would in that Case be certified among the old Debts I could only direct it to be placed on Interest. If on the contrary you direct Payment of the Amount from the Pay Chest, which I conceive you have a Right to do, then on the Exhibition of your accounts they will stand completely balanced. I mention this for two Reasons, first because I wish to facilitate your Views, and secondly because I think that Congress have made you the sole Judge as to the Extent and manner of your Expence and that it is my Duty to enable the Paymaster to answer your Drafts." Morris's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

for this purpose. As I could wish also to lay myself out for the other matters we conversed upon, I should be glad, if, at your licsure, you would favor me with a general view of the plan in contemplation, and of the Agency I am to have in it; that I may not, in the *one thing needful*, be involved beyond my abilities; or caught unprepared if the purchase is within the compass of my means.

I do not take my leave of you at this time, because I will, by some means or other, contrive to see you and Mrs. Clinton before I leave this place, whether I go for a long or a short interval. In the mean while with great truth and sincerity I am etc.

[N.Y.P.L.]

### TO MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT HOWE

Head Quarters, August 13, 1783.

Dr. Sir: Your Letter of the 23d July was handed to me on my Return from the Northward.

The advanced Season of the Year makes it absolutely necessary that the Troops and every thing destined for the Posts on our Western Frontiers, should be put in a situation to move, the moment we can learn when the British will evacuate them, I must therefore desire you to order back four or five hundred Men of your Command to replace such as may be sent to the Westward. You may send a whole Corps or detachment as may be most convenient; though I think the former preferable. No time should be lost in putting them on the March and you will direct them to take the lower Road, by Elizabeth Town &c that they may be ready to turn off to the Lines or otherwise as they may receive my Orders. I am &c.<sup>64</sup>

<sup>64</sup>From the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress.



## \*To CLEMENT BIDDLE

Newburgh, August 13, 1783.

Dear Sir: Upon my return from a Tour to the Northern and Western parts of this State I found your Letter of the 23d. Ult. but not in time to give it an acknowledgment by the last Post, and to thank you for your attention to my Commission. I now do it; and by this opportunity have requested the Superintendent of Finance to repay you the Sums which you have advanced for my use; with a Commission thereon; but as the poverty of the public Treasury, and Urgent calls upon the financier for contracts, which must be fulfilled, may render it difficult if not impracticable for him to comply with my wishes, (altho' I am only asking a part of what I have actually expended of my own money in the public Service) I must beg you to give me instant notice and I will, if opportunity offers, send you the money from this place; or if it could be made convenient to yourself, to draw on me here it should be paid on demand.

The Intercourse between my House and Alexandria is such, as to render the deposite of Goods at that place where it does not interfere with the Entry much more convenient than at George Town; and Fitzgerald or Hooe,<sup>55</sup> would be attentive to the forwarding of them. The Table Cloths which are contained in my Invoice, are wanted for the common sized square Tables. one dozn. of whih. if they are to be had of any length) may be long enough to cover two Tables; or if they are in the piece, they should not be cut at all, but so many Yards purchased as will make one dozn. of each kind.

<sup>55</sup> John Fitzgerald or Robert Townsend Hooe.

I am informed that several Ships have already arrived at your Port with Irish Indented Servants, and that more are expected; should you find among these a good House Joiner and could purchase him at a price not exceeding Thirty pds. I should thank you for doing it, and sending him to my House. I know it is difficult if not impracticable to come at a perfect knowledge of the disposition and character of these kind of Gentry before hand; but there is something in the age, appearance, and Countenance of them, which, with the Information that may be obtained from the Sailors that will go a good way towards informing the judgment for a fortunate choice; the examination of a workman will be necessary to ascertain the knowledge of his profession. Mrs. Washington joins me in best respects to Mrs. Biddle. I am, etc.<sup>54</sup>

### TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Head Quarters, August 14, 1783.

Sir: By the last post, I was honored with your Excellency's favor of the 1st inst. enclosing the resolve of Congress, directing my attendance at Princeton; notwithstanding my Horses had arrived but a Day or two before, and were much fatigued, I should have set out immediately, had it not been for the indisposition of Mrs Washington, who, during my Absence had been seized with a fever, had a return of it since, and is now in a very weak and low State. This Circumstance, together with a desire of packing my papers, and making arrangements for a final remove (being uncertain of the Objects Congress have in

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<sup>54</sup> Biddle's answer (September 17) is in the *Washington Papers*, and on September 20 Washington wrote him in return: "I am sorry Mr. Morris did not pay the money at the time and in the manner I expected. Inclosed I send you Eight Hundred Dollars in Bank Notes, and will write to you more fully in a day or two; business prevents me from doing it at this Moment." This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

view by my attendance, or how long I may be detained at Princeton) will I hope avail as an Excuse for my delay.

I propose setting out on Monday next, provided Mrs Washingtons Health will admit, or I should have nothing from Congress in the mean Time, to prevent my Intentions. With great Respect etc.<sup>57</sup>

\*To THOMAS NEWTON, JUNIOR

Newburgh, State of New York, August 15, 1783.

Sir: Inclosed, I give you the trouble of a Letter from a Miss Janet Dalgleish to me. As it is totally out of my power to render her any Service in the collectn. of her debts but wish to put her in the way to obtain justice, or at least to obtain a knowledge of the Situation of her Brothers Affairs; I take the liberty of requesting that you would drop her a line of information on this Subject. I have acquainted her of my having written to you to this effect; and To know that the inclosure has got safe to your hands wd. be satisfactory to Dr. Sir etc.

\*To MISS JANET DALGLEISH<sup>58</sup>

State of New York, August 15, 1783.

Madam: I have lately been favord with a Letter from you dated 28th. of Feby. in the present year,<sup>59</sup> and as it is impossible for me, by any personal enquiries or application, to assist you in the recovery of your Brother Debts, I have transmitted your Letter and Acct. to an acquaintance of mine in Norfolk in Virginia, Thos. Newton Esqr. a Gentleman of character; and one

<sup>57</sup>In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. The letter was read in Congress on August 22.

<sup>58</sup>Of the Shore of Leith, Scotland.

<sup>59</sup>A copy is in the *Washington Papers*.

who must have been intimately acquainted with your friends and their circumstances. This honor I had not, as the place of my residence (when at home) is distant more than two hundred miles from Norfolk, and nearly as many from Gloucester.

I wish Madam it was in my power to do more to oblige you than this Letter indicates. The distance I am at from Virginia, and the important charge committed to my care (which engrosses my whole time and attention) will not admit it. You will please to accept my thanks for the favorable Sentiments you have expressed for me. I am etc.

#### TO MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Head Quarters, August 16, 1783.

Sir: Your Ideas of the Ordnance that would be proper for the Garrisons of Niagara and Oswego accord very fully with my own; but, on the arrival of the definitive Treaty, the season will be so far advanced, and we shall then have so many difficulties to encounter before we can establish ourselves at those Posts; that I think we must be contented for the winter with two Howitzers at each, and such a number of *Light Peices* as may be judged necessary for the defence of the Works in case of any hostile, attempts from the Savages: for it is hardly to be imagined the British, who alone could furnish Artillery for a Siege in that quarter, will immediately make an effort to recover by force of Arms, what they will just have relinquished by Agreement; and I hope before any thing serious could be meditated against those Fortifications, Measures will be taken (at the opening of the next season) to furnish them with an ample supply for every Contingency.

So far as the Artillery now on the Mowhawk River can be made subservient to the present purposes, it will be better to

make use of those Peices, than to incur the trouble and expence of transportation from a greater distance; I beg you therefore to make the Arrangement as soon as may be, in such manner as you shall judge most conducive to the public service, upon the principles beforementioned.

I have already paid attention to the Cloathing requisite for the Detachment destined for the northern duty, most of the Articles which will be wanted are in Store. I am etc.<sup>60</sup> [MS. H. S.]

### TO GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Head Quarters, Newburgh, August 17, 1783.

Dear Sir: Under the urgent necessity of making immediate preparations for occupying the Western Posts as soon as they shall be evacuated by the Enemy, which was stated very fully in the Letter I had the honor to address to your Excellency a few days ago by Col Humphrys; I consider myself obliged to request in the most pressing manner that you will advance five hundred Pounds or a larger sum, if practicable of the Monies of this State, to be accounted for by the United States, and to be applied to this service alone; to obtain which without loss of time Mr Mix <sup>61</sup> Assistant Qr Mastr. Genl waits upon you with this Letter and for which he will pass his rect. I have the honor etc.<sup>62</sup>

### TO PHILIP SCHUYLER

Head Quarters, August 17, 1783.

Dr. Sir: Captain Vincent with three of the St. Francois Tribe of Indians, have been here some days and now tell me they are

<sup>60</sup> In the writing of David Humphreys.

<sup>61</sup> John Mix.

<sup>62</sup> The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

going to Albany. Captain Vincent says he has had a Company in service during the War and Claims the ballance of Pay due them; but as he has brought no Voucher to Shew how many Men he has had or how long they have been employed, no settlement can be made with them and of this I have acquainted General Bayley under whose direction they say they have been. As they intend applying to you, I thought it necessary to give you this state of their case and to inform you that I have furnished them with, each one, a Blanket, Shirt, Shoes and some Cloth to relieve their present necessities. I am etc.<sup>63</sup>

### TO MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Head Quarters, Newburgh, August 17, 1783.

Dear Sir: To make preparation for garrisoning the Posts which will be ceded to us by the British on the Western Waters, is now the greatest object that can claim our attention. On this subject I wrote to you yesterday, and desired you to make the necessary Arrangements in the Ordnance Department. I have now to repeat the request, that as soon the Boats proper for service on the Lakes can be repaired, you will forward without a moments loss of time, the Artillery, Stores, and spare Ammunition sufficient to compleat a full supply including such of those Articles at present on the Mowhawk River, as may be appropriated to this use. In addition to the Artillerists who will be detached for these Garrisons, (and who will take the immediate charge of the Ordnance &c) you will be pleased to order one Company of the Light Infantry from Lt.

<sup>63</sup>From the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

Practically this same letter was written to Brig. Gen. Jacob Bayley, also stating that "Whatever pay they are entitled to by the Resolve, will undoubtedly be given them; but before the Pay Master General can settle their Accounts, they must produce some Voucher to shew how many of them have been employed and for what time." This letter is in the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

Col. Hulls Command to proceed with the Boats to the Northward. The whole of the Detachments to report themselves to Colonel Willet, and receive his Instructions.

Either the Quarter Master Genl or one of his Assts. will go immediately to the Mowhawk River to provide more Boats, make provision for transportation, and supply the Contingencies in that Department which may be necessary. I am &c.<sup>64</sup>

[MS.H.S.]

### TO COLONEL HEMAN SWIFT

Head Quarters, Newburgh, August 17, 1783.

Sir: I had the honour, last Evening, to receive your favour of the same date and have Communicated the sentiments contained therein to the Commander in Chief. In consequence of which His Excellency, desires me to acquaint you, for the information of the Officers of the Connecticut Regiment, that although he proposes setting out for Princeton to morrow upon the request of Congress, without knowing for what particular purpose, or for how long a time they may require his presence at that place; yet he expects the pleasure of seeing his Friends again in this Quarter, before he retires to private life, and for that reason alone waved all Ceremony in taking leave of the Army at this time.

His Excellency the General farther directs me to signify to you, the extreme sensibility with which he is affected by the friendly sentiments expressed for him by the Officers of the Connecticut Regiment and he intreats they may be assured, that he experiences, with the most perfect reciprocity, the sincerest feelings of affection regard and Esteem for them. I have the honour etc.<sup>65</sup>

<sup>64</sup>In the writing of David Humphreys.

<sup>65</sup>From the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress as signed by David Humphreys.

## TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL MARINUS WILLETT

Head Quarters, Newburgh, August 17, 1783.

Dear Sir: This will be delivered to you by Mr. Mix Asst. Q. M. Genl. who in the absence of the Quartr. M. Genl. is charged with making provision for the Transportation of the Garrisons and Stores to the Posts on the Western Waters, he has instructions to consult with you respecting a Contract for so many Batteaux as he can ensure the means of payment; he will also make arrangements for the transportation across the Carrying places, and for supplying such Articles as are of the greatest necessity and may be required in the first instance from the Quartr. M. Genls. Department.

Majr. General Knox will in a few days forward the Ordnance and [Military Stores to the Northward, with a Detachment of Artillery Men and a Company of Infantry, (which are all the Men that can be spared until some Troops, which are sent for, shall arrive from Philadelphia) they will bring with them 12 or 15 Boats, which should be got into the Mohawk River without delay, that in case the Posts of Oswego and Niagara should be suddenly evacuated, a Detachment should be instantly pushed forward to take possession of them, before the New Boats could be got in readiness; until that event should take place, or until you shall hear from the Baron Steuben these Boats may be employed in transporting the necessary apparatus (Provisions in Particular) to Fort Schuyler. The before mentioned Detachments will report themselves to you and receive your Orders.

I expect the Contractors will,] in a short time, send the full supply of provision which has been required of them, to Schenectady, but I find it will be expensive and difficult, if not impracticable, for them to forward it from thence without Water



conveyance, and our assistance, pray attend to this as a matter of the first importance, and in general to every thing that will tend to expedite the movement, as soon as the British will put us in possession of their Fortifications.

Impressed as you are with the necessity of accelerating these Arrangements I need add nothing more than that I am etc.<sup>66</sup>

### TO COLONEL TIMOTHY PICKERING

Head Quarters, Newburgh, August 17, 1783.

Sir: I have been greatly disappointed in not seeing you before my departure from this place. In consequence of your absence, I have been obliged to send one of your Assistants to the Northward to make Provision for Garrisoning the Western Posts, as that business could be delayed no longer. I need not say how much more satisfactory it would have been, that the execution of this important business should have gone thro' the head of the Department in the first Instance.

On your Arrival, I must desire you will instantly attend to all the Arrangements which may come within the Sphere of your Department, and that you will either go to the Northward yourself, or give more particular instructions and press the completion of the preparations with the greatest earnestness, as well knowing the Posts in question will be very much injured, if not totally demolished, unless we are ready to occupy them at the earliest possible period after they shall be evacuated by the British. I omitted, in my former Letters, to enumerate specifically all the smaller Articles that may be wanted. Such as Garrison Flags for three Posts, Orderly and

<sup>66</sup>In the writing of David Cobb. From a photostat of the incomplete original kindly furnished by Judge E. A. Armstrong, of Princeton, N. J. The portion in brackets is supplied from the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

Company Books, Stationary and many other things will undoubtedly occur to you, and should be provided accordingly. I am &c.<sup>67</sup>

### INSTRUCTIONS TO JOHN MIX

Head Quarters, Newburgh, August 17, 1783.

Sir: You are hereby directed to repair immediately to the Northward, in order to make Arrangements for transporting the Garrisons and Stores to the Western Posts. You will on your way, wait upon His Excellency Governor Clinton and receive such Sum of Money as he shall direct to be paid in consequence of the Letter I shall write to him by you; which is to be appropriated in the best and most æconomical manner to the before mentioned service.

Your principal object is to procure by Contract or in any other Manner, at the most reasonable rate, to the amount of 100 well built Batteaux, completely fitted for use, if in the first instance you can engage payment only for 30 or 40 let so many be instantly begun, and in negotiating this business you will be pleased to consult with Colo. Willet, who will give you his advice and Assistance on all occasions. Remember it is necessary all the Boats should be in readiness, if possible, in six, seven or Eight Weeks at farthest from the date hereof; And as the service is important you will use your greatest exertions for the accomplishment of it.

You will in the next place make Provision for the Transportation of the Boats, with every thing that will be required for the Garrisons across the Carrying places, until they shall be put into the Wood Creek; And in General you will supply, in the best manner you are able, all such Articles as may be wanted from the Quarter Master's Department, Superintending the

<sup>67</sup>From the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

business yourself, and taking the advice of Colo. Willet on all important matters relative to the operation, until you shall hear further from the Quarter Master General or Myself.<sup>88</sup>

### GENERAL ORDERS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, Sunday, August 17, 1783.

The Commander in Chief having been requested by Congress to give his attendance at Prince Town, proposes to set out for that place Tomorrow;<sup>89</sup> but expects to have the pleasure of seeing the Army again before he retires to private life. During his absence Major General Knox will retain the Command of the Troops, and all Reports are to be made to him Accordingly.

### To SAMUEL FRAUNCES

Head Quarters, August 18, 1783.

Sir: I have received with satisfaction your favor, congratulating me on the happy return of Peace, and the prospects of Returng to our former Walks of Life.

I take pleasure in complying with your Request of a Recommendation to the Citizens of America, as I am happy to find, by the Concurrent Testimony of many of our suffering Brethren, and others, that you have invariably through the most trying Times, maintained a constant friendship and Attention to the Cause of our Country and its Independence and Freedom, and this Testimony is also strengthened by my own Observation, so far as I have had Opportunity of knowg your Character personally.

I do therefore hereby recommend you to the several Executives and to all the good People of these States, as a warm

<sup>88</sup> From the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

<sup>89</sup> Washington apparently did not leave Newburgh until August 19 or 20.

Friend, and one who has not only suffered in our Cause, but who has deserved well of many Individuals, who have experienced the rigors of Captivity in N York, and therefore One who is deserving the favor and attention of these U States.

I wish you Health and prosperity, with a grateful Reception with your fellow Citizens, and am Sir Your etc.<sup>70</sup>

### TO TIMOTHY BRINLEY MOUNT

Head Quarters, August 18, 1783.

It having been represented to me from good Authority, that Mr Timothy Brinley Mount, the Bearer of this, late from Monmouth in N Jersey State, but some Time residing in the City of N York, has been a good friend to the Cause and Liberties of the United States, have been of particular service to many of the suffering Citizens of these States. And he havg applied to me, is hereby permitted to return to the Place of his former abode, and is hereby recommended to His Excellcy the Governor and the People of the State of N Jersey; with my Wish that he may be received to the favor of his fellow Citizens, as his Merits appear to deserve it.<sup>71</sup>

### TO MAJOR BÉCHET DE ROCHEFONTAINE

Head Quarters, Newburgh, August 19, 1783.

Whereas Monsr Rochefontaine hath served as Capt in the Corps of Engineers from the Month of April 1778 until the Month of Novr. 1781 when he was promoted to the rank of Major in the Service of the United States: and whereas he hath been principally with the Army under my immediate Orders,

<sup>70</sup>The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

<sup>71</sup>In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by Judge E. A. Armstrong, of Princeton, N. J.

thro' the various stages of the War until the happy conclusion of it, having merited my approbation, and having received honorable testimonials from the head of the Department in which he acted. I do therefore hereby Certify and make known that the said Majr. Rochefontaine hath given many proofs of his intelligence, zeal and abilities, particularly in the successful Siege of York in Virginia, and that he hath on all occasions supported the reputation of a Gentleman and a Valuable Officer.<sup>73</sup>

TO THE MAGISTRATES AND INHABITANTS OF  
THE BOROUGH OF ELIZABETH

Elizabeth Town, August 21, 1783.

Gentlemen: It gives me the most pleasing sensations to find so cordial a welcome on my return, in peace, to this pleasant Town, after the vicissitudes of so long and obstinate a Contest.<sup>74</sup>

On this happy occasion, suffer me, Gentlemen, to join you in grateful adoration to that divine Providence, which hath rescued our Country from the brink of destruction, which hath crowned our exertions with the fairest fruits of success, and which now (instead of the anxiety and distress occasioned by perpetual Alarms) permits you to enjoy, without molestation, the sweets of Peace and domestic happiness. May a spirit of Wisdom and Rectitude preside over all our Councils and Actions, and dispose us as a Nation to avail ourselves of the blessings which are placed before us, then shall we be happy indeed, and as a just reward for your liberal and virtuous sentiments,

<sup>73</sup> The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

<sup>74</sup> Washington left Newburgh August 19 or 20 and was in Elizabethtown on August 21. His route, according to Lieut. Col. Benjamin Walker's expense account, which omits the details of dates, was through Tappan, Hackensack, Acquackanonck Ferry, Elizabethtown, Brunswick, and Princeton.

may the felicity of the Magistracy and Inhabitants of this Corporation, be only limited by the duration of time, and exceeded by the fruition of a glorious immortality.<sup>74</sup> [H.S.P.]

### TO MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT HOWE

Rocky Hill, August 24, 1783.

Dr. Sir: Your several Letters of the 19 20 and 21 of this Month are come to hand.

My papers being yet behind, prevents a reference to my last Letter to you from Newburg but if I recollect it is explicit as to the number of Troops and the necessity of their immediate march; the purpose for which they were ordered on will not admit delay, and I must desire that not only Sprouts Regiment but as many more as will make up the number required be sent on with all possible dispatch. As Jacksons is peculiarly circumstanced they would certainly be the most proper to complete the number.

Since my arrival here I have learnt that Congress have expressed to you their Wishes that the whole of the Troops with you should be returned to the No. River as soon as they can possibly be spared; this period I have no doubt you will hasten as much as lays in your power.<sup>75</sup>

### TO THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE

Rocky Hill, August 25, 1783.

Sir: I have been favored with your Letter of the 12th of this Month.

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<sup>74</sup>In the writing of David Cobb.

Washington inclosed this answer to the Address of the Magistrates, etc., in a brief note to Brig. Gen. Elias Dayton, who had signed as chairman. The address, dated Aug. 21, 1783, is in the *Washington Papers*, and the text of Washington's note to Dayton is found in the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

<sup>75</sup>The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

Not having heard from the Quarter Master General since I had the pleasure to write to you on the 6 Inst. and the season advancing so rapidly, I thought it highly necessary before I left the No. River, to begin the necessary preparations for Garrisoning the Western Posts; to do this I was obliged to call on Governor Clinton to advance £500 which he has promised to do and farther Sums on the conditions contained in the inclosed copy of a Memorandum, which he gave me on the occasion and which is submitted to your consideration. Besides the sums which will be wanted to complete this business, it may not be amiss to observe that from the nature of the Service, some advance of Pay to the Officers and Men will be absolutely necessary to enable them to carry with them many Articles not to be procured where they are going.<sup>76</sup>

TO THE INHABITANTS OF PRINCETON AND  
NEIGHBORHOOD, TOGETHER WITH THE PRESI-  
DENT AND FACULTY OF THE COLLEGE

Rocky Hill, August 25, 1783.

Gentlemen: I receive with the utmost satisfaction and acknowledgment with great sensibility your kind congratulations.<sup>77</sup>

The prosperous situation of our public affairs, the flourishing state of this place and the revival of the Seat of Literature from the ravages of War, encrease to the highest degree, the pleasure I feel *in visiting* (at the return of Peace) the scene of our important military transactions, and *in recollecting* the period when the tide of adversity began to turn, and better fortune to smile upon us.

<sup>76</sup>The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

<sup>77</sup>The Address of the Inhabitants of Princeton, etc., to which the above was a reply, is dated Aug. 25, 1783, and is signed by John Witherspoon and 6 others. It is in the *Washington Papers*.

If in the execution of an arduous Office I have been so happy as to discharge my duty to the Public with fidelity and success, and to obtain the good opinion of my fellow Soldiers and fellow Citizens; I attribute all the glory to that Supreme Being, who hath caused the several parts, which have been employed in the production of the wonderful Events we now contemplate, to harmonize in the most perfect manner, and who was able by the humblest instruments as well as by the most powerful means to establish and secure the liberty and happiness of these United States.

I now return you Gentlemen my thanks for your benevolent wishes, and make it my earnest prayer to Heaven, that every temporal and divine blessing may be bestowed on the Inhabitants of Princeton, on the neighbourhood, and on the President and Faculty of the College of New Jersey, and that the usefulness of this Institution in promoting the interests of Religion and Learning may be universally extended.<sup>78</sup>

### ADDRESS TO CONGRESS<sup>79</sup>

Princeton, August 26, 1783.

Mr. President: I am too sensible of the honorable reception I have now experienced not to be penetrated with the deepest feelings of gratitude.

<sup>78</sup>The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

<sup>79</sup>According to order, the Commander in Chief was escorted by 2 Delegates ("Two first members present of Committee", which had been appointed to draft the address of the President of Congress to the General) to a chair on the President's right, who remained seated and with his hat on addressed the General thus:

"Sir, Congress feel a particular pleasure in seeing your Excellency, and in congratulating you on the success of a war, in which you have acted so conspicuous a part.

"It has been the singular happiness of the United States, that, during a war so long, so dangerous, and so important, Providence has been graciously pleased to preserve the life of a general, who has merited and possessed the uninterrupted confidence and affection of his fellow-citizens. In other nations many have performed services, for



Notwithstanding Congress appear to estimate the value of my life beyond any Services I have been able to render the U States, yet I must be permitted to consider the Wisdom and Unanimity of our National Councils, the firmness of our Citizens, and the patience and Bravery of our Troops, which have produced so happy a termination of the War, as the most conspicuous effect of the divine interposition, and the surest presage of our future happiness.

Highly gratified by the favorable sentiments which Congress are pleased to express of my past conduct, and amply rewarded by the confidence and affection of my fellow Citizens, I cannot hesitate to contribute my best endeavours, towards the establishment of the National security, in whatever manner the Sovereign Power may think proper to direct, until the ratification of the Definitive Treaty of Peace, or the final evacuation of our Country by the British Forces; after either of which events, I shall ask permission to retire to the peaceful shade of private life.

Perhaps, Sir, No occasion may offer more suitable than the present, to express my humble thanks to God, and my grateful acknowledgments to my Country, for the great and uniform support I have received in every vicissitude of Fortune, and for the many distinguished honors which Congress have been pleased to confer upon me in the course of the War.<sup>60</sup>

which they have deserved and received the thanks of the public. But to you, sir, peculiar praise is due. Your services have been essential in acquiring and establishing the freedom and independence of your country. They deserve the grateful acknowledgments of a free and independent nation. Those acknowledgments, Congress have the satisfaction of expressing to your Excellency.

"Hostilities have now ceased, but your country still needs your services. She wishes to avail herself of your talents in forming the arrangements that will be necessary for her in the time of peace. For this reason your attendance at Congress has been requested. A committee is appointed to confer with your Excellency, and to receive your assistance in preparing and digesting plans relative to those important objects."

A draft of this address is in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>60</sup>In the writing of a clerk in the office of the Secretary of Congress, with a few changes in the writing of Benjamin Walker and the date in that of David Cobb.

## TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Rocky Hill, August 26, 1783.

Sir: I cannot but think it essential that Congress should be informed of the disposition and conduct of the British Officers at the Western Posts, of our frontier Inhabitants, and of the Savages, in order that adequate Measures may be taken to avail ourselves of any favorable circumstances to prevent Hostilities, and to place that extent of Territory which is ceded to us, under some proper Regulations; It is for these purposes, I have taken the liberty of enclosing to your Excellency the Extract of a Letter from Lieut. Colo. DePuyster, and the Copy of another Letter from Brigadr. General Maclean,<sup>81</sup> which were received yesterday under cover from Colo. Willett. I have the honor etc.<sup>82</sup>

## CERTIFICATE TO MAJOR GEORGE SHAFNER

Princeton in New Jersey, August 27, 1783.

Whereas George Shafner Esqr. Major in the American Legion Commanded by Brigr. Genl Armand Marquis de la Rouerie, hath served in the Army of the United States from a very early period of the War with Great Britain, in the several grades of Lieutenant, Captain, and Major; and whereas he hath conducted himself thro' the whole course of his service until the successful termination of the War in a manner which reflected great credit upon him as a Gentleman and an Officer, as appears not only from the general tenor of his behavior,

<sup>81</sup> Copies of the letters of Lieut. Col. Arent Schuyler de Peyster (Eighth Foot, British Army) to Brig. Gen. Allan Maclean, July 17, and Maclean to Colonel Willett, July 31, are in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>82</sup> In the writing of David Cobb. The letter was read in Congress on August 27 and referred to James Duane, Richard Peters, and Daniel Carroll.

but also from the honorable testimonials he hath received from those Officers under whose immediate Orders he hath been placed; I have therefore thought proper to grant this Certificate of service, and I do hereby Certify and make known, to all to whom these presents shall come; that the said Major Shafner hath on every occasion behaved himself as a zealous, intelligent and gallant Officer; and that in my opinion he is entitled to that favorable Notice and consideration which result from a series of brave and successful services.<sup>83</sup>

•To THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE

Pr[inceton, August 27, 1783.]

Dr Sir: The [Gentleman who will] have the honor of [presenting this to] you, delivered m[e the inclosed (original) Letter.]

The House of [Robert Cary Esqr and Co.] of which Mr. Welc[h was one, was very] respectable; I corresponded with it many years, and had most of my Goods therefrom. Mr. Moore wishing to be introduced to you, carries with him in the inclosed recommendation all the knowledge I have of him for I never had the pleasure of seeing him till this day. I am etc.<sup>84</sup>

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Rocky hill, August 28, 1783.

Sir: Having just received the inclosed Letter from the Chevalier Heintz,<sup>85</sup> containing propositions to Congress respecting the admission of a Number of American Characters as Members

<sup>83</sup> The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

<sup>84</sup> This letter is mutilated. The words in brackets have been supplied from the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

<sup>85</sup> The letter of Major Chevalier Jean de Heintz of May 13, together with a small pamphlet (20 pages) of "L'Ordre institue en honneur de la Providence Divine etc.," is filed with this letter from Washington in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*.

of an Order lately instituted in Poland, together with a List of the present Knights of the Order; I think it my duty to submit the Originals in the state they came into my hands to the consideration of Congress, and to request, that, I may be honored with their Instructions on the Subject, so that I may be able at the time of acknowledging the receipt of the Letter to make a reply to the proposals contained therein. With perfect respect etc.<sup>86</sup>

### TO MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Rocky Hill, August 29, 1783.

Dear Sir: Upon considering the state of facts reported in your Letter of the 26th., I think it expedient that a stop should be put to the movement of the Troops and Stores which were destined for the Western Posts; you will be pleased to give directions accordingly, and to transmit the Letter herewith to the Quartr Mastr Genl. as it relates to the same subject. I am etc.

The Letter to Colo. Willet, you will be kind eno' to forward with the Q. M. Generals.<sup>87</sup>

[MS. H. S.]

### TO GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Rocky Hill near Princeton, August 29, 1783.

Dear Sir: I am very sorry to find by the Report of the Baron Steuben there is no probability that we shall be put in possession of the Western Posts this fall; in consequence of this information and the late season of the year I have directed the

<sup>86</sup>In the writing of Benjamin Walker. The letter was read in Congress on August 29 and referred to William Ellery, Arthur Lee, Ralph Izard, Richard Peters, and James McHenry.

<sup>87</sup>In the writing of David Cobb.

movement of the Troops to be stopped, and the preparations to be suspended until further Orders.

Major Giles<sup>88</sup> (who is the bearer of this Letter) having occasion to make some application to your Legislature respecting a part of the Estate of Mr Axtel<sup>89</sup> the Uncle of Mrs Giles, and being unknown to you and but little acquainted with any of the Gentlemen of your Legislature, I could not hesitate to bring him acquainted with your Excellency, and to recommend him to your favorable Notice as a Gentleman and an Officer of Reputation. I have the honor etc.<sup>90</sup>

#### TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL MARINUS WILLETT

Rocky Hill near Princeton, August 29, 1783.

Dr. Sir: I have been duly favoured with your Letter of the 15th covering the extract of a Letter from Lt. Colo. Depeyster and the Copy of a Letter from Brigr. Genl McLean. I have also just heard of the return of the Baron Steuben, without having been able to accomplish the business of his Mission. In consequence of which and of the advanced season of the Year, I have judged it impossible to take possession of the Western Posts this fall and have directed the movement of the Troops and Stores to be suspended accordingly. Nothing now remains to be done but the prosecution of the Works, of clearing the land and Water Communications, of making Sluices (if you have time) in the Wood Creek and of erecting the Buildings at Fort Schuyler, which were formerly agreed upon, and which I wish you would still take the trouble of having completed. I am etc.<sup>91</sup>

<sup>88</sup> Maj. Aquila Giles, aide to General St. Clair. He served to the close of the war.

<sup>89</sup> William Axtell (Axtel), loyalist of New York City. His property was confiscated.

<sup>90</sup> The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

<sup>91</sup> From the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

## TO COLONEL TIMOTHY PICKERING

Rocky Hill near Princeton, August 29, 1783.

Sir: In consequence of intelligence just received from the Northward that General Haldimand would not enter into any negotiations with the Baron Steuben for delivering up the Western Posts, I find it proper to put a stop to all the operations which are carrying on for the purpose of Transporting Garrisons and Stores to them this fall. You will be pleased therefore to give directions for suspending all preparations, and for preventing, as much as possible, the expences which would have been incurred in your Department, desisting from making any farther Contracts for Boats, and relinquishing those already entered into, if practicable. No other supplies will now be required from you, except such materials as may be necessary for erecting the Store House and small Buildings at Fort Schuyler, respecting which Colo. Willet has my Instructions, and which it is my wish may yet be effected. I am etc.

P. S. Since writing the foregoing, I have received your favour of the 26th by Colo. Villefranche and am happy to find you have in a great measure anticipated my wishes.<sup>92</sup>

## TO DANIEL PARKER AND WILLIAM DUER

Rocky Hill near Princeton, August 29, 1783.

Gentlemen: Some circumstances having intervened that render it impracticable during this fall, for us to take possession of the Posts now occupied by the British on the Western Waters; for the Garrison of which, the *Provisions* mentioned

<sup>92</sup> From the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

in my Letter to you from Saratoga were designed, and which will therefore become in a manner useless to the public, if they cannot be relinquished or disposed of. My design in addressing you, Gentlemen, at this time is to give information of the before mentioned unexpected Event, and to desire that all purchases for this purpose may be suspended, and that in case any Articles have been procured, the Bargains may be given up if possible, or the Provisions otherwise disposed of, if it can be done without considerable loss to the United States. To prevent which, such articles as cannot be returned or vended, had better be stored at the Garrison of West Point. I am etc.<sup>93</sup>

\*TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

August 30, 1783.

Sir: I have the honor to inclose for the information of Congress the report of the Baron de Steuben, who was sent into Canada to make arrangements with Generl. Haldimand for withdrawing the British forces from the Posts within the Territory of the United States. The Letter from Genl. Haldimand to me, referred to in his Letter of the 13th Instt. to the Baron is not yet come to hand.<sup>94</sup>

The Embarrassments which this business has met with at this advanced Season, have induced me to suspend the March of the Detachment, removal of the Stores, and purchase of Salt Provisions which were intended for those Western Posts. I have however desired Colo. Willet with the State Troops of New York to continue workg. upon the Land and Water

<sup>93</sup> From the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

<sup>94</sup> Contemporary copies of this letter from Haldimand to Washington, Aug. 13, 1783, are in the *Washington Papers* and the *Papers of the Continental Congress*. One of them was forwarded to Congress by Washington, in a brief note, dated Sept. 4, 1783, the draft of which is in the *Washington Papers*.

Communication between Schenectady and the Wood Creek that our operation may be facilitated hereafter. With great respect etc.<sup>95</sup>

### TO THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE

Rocky Hill, August 30, 1783.

Sir: I take the earliest opportunity of informing you, that the Baron Steuben has returned from Canada without being able to accomplish any part of the business he had in charge. In consequence of which and of the late Season of the Year, I have judged it impossible to take possession of the Western Posts this fall and have ordered a Stop to be put to the movement of Troops and Stores, and to the preparations which were making for that purpose; of which I have given notice to the Qr. Mr. Genl. and to the Contractors, and have taken every other precaution in my power to prevent the accumulation of unnecessary expences. I have &c.<sup>96</sup>

### \*TO MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT HOWE

Rocky hill, August 31, 1783.

Dear Sir: I have been favored with your private letter of the 21st, and should have given it an acknowledgment sooner but thought a few days would have let me more into the views of Congress with respect to the Peace Establishment than I had

<sup>95</sup>The signed letter sent to Congress is in the writing of David Cobb. It was read in Congress on September 1 and referred to Ralph Izard, Benjamin Hawkins, James Duane, Arthur Lee, and Stephen Higginson. Filed with it are copies of letters: Steuben to Washington, August 23; Steuben to Haldimand, August 3; Haldimand to Steuben, August 6; Steuben to Haldiman, August 11; Haldimand to Steuben, August 13. The above text is from the autograph draft in the *Washington Papers*. It varies from the letter sent in spelling, capitalization, and punctuation only.

<sup>96</sup>From the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress.



any knowledge of at the time of its receipt. I am as much in the dark now as ever, and as unable to guess at the number of Troops which may be retained, or raised for this Service. I am inclined to think however the force (if any) will scarcely amount to a Major Generals Command. If it shd., as the appointment of Officers will be with Congress or the Secretary at War (and not with me even if I should be here) I will give in your name and wishes with others who have written or spoken to me on the same Subject, wishing very sincerely it was in my power to oblige all; and to put them in way to receive compensation for the losses they have sustained in Service, by adhering to the Interest of their Country. With great esteem and regard etc.

TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL  
WILLIAM STEPHEN SMITH

Rocky Hill, August 31, 1783.

Dr. Sir: I have received your favour of the 26th and am much obliged by your attention in procuring the Articles I had requested I am also glad to find there is at length a prospect that the British will in reality soon take their departure from the United States.

Whatever my private sentiments, as an Individual, may be, respecting the violent Policy which seems in some instances to be adopted, It is not for us, as Military Characters, to dictate a different Line of Conduct; but I should suppose the encouragement you have given to those British and Foreign Soldiers, who have been discharged, that they would be permitted to remain in the Country, was very unexceptionable and proper; the same indulgence, however, cannot be extended to such

natives of the Country as have served in their New Corps, without the particular interference of the States to which they belong. And I think it necessary you should be advised, that granting Passports to Citizens of any description for the purpose of giving protection in coming from New York into the Country, may not only be considered as an assumption beyond the Limits of any Commission which has been derived from Congress, but will probably be productive of altercations with the Civil Powers, and at the same time involve us in very disagreeable consequences in many other respects.<sup>97</sup> I am etc.<sup>98</sup>

### TO JOHN MOYLAN

Rocky Hill, August 31, 1783.

Sir: I have received your Letter of the 18th, also the duplicate inclosed in yours of the 24th.

If the Articles should not have been forwarded you will be informed by the Superintendant of Finance, that the immediate necessity of incurring the expence of transportation has ceased to exist, I am however pleased with your exertions on this, as well as former occasions. The reasons you have given for your detention in Phila., have always appeared satisfactory, and I have the pleasure to assure you, the business of your department with the Army has been conducted by your Assistant Mr. Brooks entirely to my satisfaction. I am etc.<sup>99</sup>

<sup>97</sup>Smith had written (August 26) "that in Consequence of numberless warm publications in our papers and the unconstitutional proceedings of Committees I suppose not less than fifteen thousand inhabitants will be drove from the Country who are not conscious of any other Crime than that of residing within the British Lines, some perhaps have acted tho' in general with reluctance . . . in consequence of which upon the evacuation we shall find a City destitute of Inhabitants, and a settlement made on our Frontiers by a people who their minds being sour'd by the severity of their Treatment, will prove troublesome neighbours and perhaps lay the foundation of future Contests which I suppose would be for the Interest of our Country to avoid." Smith's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>98</sup>From the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

## TO THE SECRETARY AT WAR

Rocky Hill, August 31, 1783.

Sir: I enclose you the Copy of a Letter from Captn. Segond in behalf of himself and Lieut Boulieu, the only remaining Officers of Pulaski's Legion; if the peculiar circumstances of those Gentlemen are such as will exclude them from emoluments to which they ought to be entitled in common with other officers, and if it shall not be in your power to give adequate relief, I must request you will be pleased to lay their case before Congress and take the orders of that Honble Body on the subject. I judged this the proper channel of application and have referred Capt Segond to you accordingly; informing him at the same time that he must be under a mistake as to the obligations of his Parole, from which I conceived him to be wholly and absolutely liberated. I have the honor etc.<sup>99</sup>

TO MRS. ANNIS BOUDINOT STOCKTON<sup>1</sup>

Rocky Hill, September 2, 1783.

You apply to me, My dear Madam, for absolution as tho' I was your father Confessor; and as tho' you had committed a crime, great in itself, yet of the venial class You have reason good, for I find myself strangely disposed to be a very indulgent ghostly Adviser on this occasion; and, notwithstanding "you are the most offending Soul alive" (that is, if it is a crime to write elegant Poetry)<sup>2</sup> yet if you will come and dine with

<sup>99</sup>The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

Practically this same letter was written to Capt. James Segond on August 31 by Washington. A copy of the draft is in the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

On August 31 Washington wrote to the Superintendent of Finance forwarding him the estimate and pay requisition for Varick's writers, who had finished their work. A copy of this draft is in the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

<sup>1</sup>Annis Boudinot, sister of Elias Boudinot; married Richard Stockton, the Signer, who had died Feb. 28, 1781.

<sup>2</sup>Her poem and letter, dated Aug. 28, 1783, and signed "Emilia," are in the *Washington Papers*.

me on Thursday and go through the proper course of penitence, which shall be prescribed, I will strive hard to assist you in expiating these poetical trespasses on this side of purgatory. Nay more, if it rests with me to direct your future lucubrations, I shall certainly urge you to a repetition of the same conduct, on purpose to shew what an admirable knack you have at confession and reformation; and so, without more hesitation, I shall venture to command the Muse not to be restrained by ill-grounded timidity, but to go on and prosper.

You see Madam, when once the Woman has tempted us and we have tasted the forbidden fruit, there is no such thing as checking our appetites, whatever the consequences may be. You will I dare say, recognize our being the genuine Descendants of those who are reputed to be our great Progenitors.

Before I come to the more serious Conclusion of my Letter, I must beg leave to say a word or two about these Fine things you have been telling in such harmonious and beautiful Numbers. Fiction is to be sure the very life and Soul of Poetry. All Poets and Poetesses have been indulged in the free and indisputable use of it, time out of Mind. And to oblige you to make such an excellent Poem, on such a subject, without any Materials but those of simple reality, would be as cruel as the Edict of Pharaoh which compelled the Children of Israel to Manufacture Bricks without the necessary Ingredients. Thus are you sheltered under the authority of prescription, and I will not dare to charge you with an intentional breach of the Rules of the decalogue in giving so bright a colouring to the services I have been enabled to render my Country; though I am not conscious of deserving any thing more at your hands, than what the purest and most disinterested friendship has a right to claim; actuated by which, you will permit me, to thank you in the most affectionate manner for the kind wishes you have

so happily expressed for me and the partner of all my Domestic enjoyments. Be assured we can never forget our friend at Morven; and that I am etc.<sup>3</sup>

### TO COLONEL TIMOTHY PICKERING

Rocky Hill, September 3, 1783.

Sir: To the several points mentioned in your Letters of 28th and 29th Ultimo I answer; that I am at present totally ignorant of the strength of the Garrison which will be destined for West Point the ensuing Winter, not having as yet had any conference with the Committee of Congress on that subject; I should think however that a supply of Forage and Fuel for a Corps of 500 Men will be sufficient, and for that number I wish you to make your Arrangements, unless you shall receive further Instructions.

As to the Officers who retired, pursuant to the Resolution of Congress, it is my opinion they must be ultimately entitled to Pay, Forage, and Subsistence for the whole time they shall be on furlough; but for the present I supposed the public disbursements were to be confined to the actual provision necessary for those Officers only who remained with the Troops which were returned in service, or who availed themselves of the general Order on the Subject. This measure was believed to be indispensable for enabling the Financier to comply with the engagements he had already entered into.

The public buildings at Mrs. Hasbrooks will not be wanted, and may therefore be disposed of; [the Ho. in the Garden may be given to her.]

If it is well ascertained that the chain<sup>4</sup> can be preserved in perfect Order for future use, I should advise it to be housed in

<sup>3</sup>The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

<sup>4</sup>A few links of this chain have survived, and are to be seen at the United States Military Academy at West Point.

the manner you mention; but if the fact is otherwise or even very doubtful [of wch. I wish Genl Knox to be consulted] I would recommend that it should be sold without delay. I am etc.<sup>5</sup>

\*TO THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE

Rocky Hill, September 3, 1783.

Dear Sir: Mrs. Washington and myself heard with much pleasure, from Major Jackson, that you and Mrs. Morris had in contemplation a visit to Prince Town; and we join very sincerely in offering you a Bed at our Quarters.<sup>6</sup> The inconvenience of accepting it, can only be to yourselves, as the room is not so commodious as we could wish; but, in the crowded situation of this place is equal perhaps to any you could get, and none would be happier in having you under their roof; we claim it indeed as a matter of right. Our best respects to Mrs. Morris and yourself. I am etc.

\*TO JAMES McHENRY

Rocky Hill, September 5, 1783.

Dear Sir: [I have thrown together the following sentiments on the papers you put into my hand yesterday.]

Brevets which have been given with conditions annexed, ought, undoubtedly, to have the conditions fulfilled; because it is a contract between the Parties.

<sup>5</sup>The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

<sup>6</sup>Headquarters were at Mrs. Margaret Berrien's, the widow of Judge John Berrien.

On September 4 Washington wrote to George Augustine Washington, from Princeton, N. J., from which the following is an extract: "After I wrote you from Newburg I repaired to this place by order of Congress, where it is probable I shall remain till the Definitive Treaty arrives, or till New York is evacuated when I shall take leave of Public life and repair to my own home and in ease and quiet enjoy that repose which I have been a stranger to for more than Eight years." This extract is taken from the printed text in a sales catalogue, 1937.

Simple Brevets, must be determined by the usage and Custom of other Armies, if there is no established rule for considering them in our own; I never considered them in any other light than as conferring Rank without pay or emoluments; and this, I believe (and indeed am almost sure) is the view of them in the British Service. They are intended *generally* as a Compliment; they give command, and place an Officer in the road of permant. Promotion.

I cannot<sup>7</sup> see how Brevets considered in these lights, or indeed [in] any other, can have a disagreeable operation [in the] promotion of Officers of a certain standing, a grade higher, when the proposition was express that no emoluments should be annexed, nor the Public burthened<sup>8</sup> [in the least degree]; if however the Public have any suspicions, that the Officers thus promoted will avail themselves of it to enhance their emoluments, the Secrety at War may be directed to inform the pay Master Genl. that such promotions do not entitle them to pay, or emoluments; which will sufficiently check any evils the Government may fear, and supercede the necessity of any explanitory Resolution, which might perhaps injure the feelings of those Officers whom Congress in this instance wish to gratify.<sup>9</sup>

TO ROBERT AND WILLIAM LEWIS<sup>10</sup>

Rocky Hill, near Princeton, September 6, 1783.

Gentn: In Bradfords Paper<sup>11</sup> of the 30th. Ult., I perceive an anonymous advertisement of a person who wants employment

<sup>7</sup>Washington first wrote "for the life of me" and then crossed it off.

<sup>8</sup>Washington here wrote: "one farthing by it."

<sup>9</sup>The parts in brackets are in the writing of David Cobb.

<sup>10</sup>Of the firm of Robert Lewis & Sons, merchants of Philadelphia.

<sup>11</sup>The *Pennsylvania Journal and Weekly Advertiser*, of Philadelphia. The Lewis firm wrote to Washington Apr. 5, 1785, regarding a miller by the name of Joseph Davenport. This letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

as a miller, referring to you for his character. If this is such, as in *all* points of view I could approve, it is very likely I might employ him at my Mills in Virginia (ten miles from Alexa.) My present Miller<sup>12</sup> who has lived with me thirteen or fourteen years; and who perhaps understands the manufacture of wheat, as well as any miller upon the Continent; and who, I believe is also an honest man; is become so unfit for the trust reposed in him by his addiction to liquor, which not only keeps him intoxicated many days upon a stretch, but absent also from the Mills, that however reluctantly I do it, I shall be induced to part with him, if I can meet with a man who could bring me *ample* testimonials of his skill, his honesty, his sobriety and Industry.

These qualities must be well ascertained before I would employ any man; as I have no other objection, than what I have mentioned to my present Miller; who, besides being an excellent miller, is equally a good Millwright, and Cooper.

I work two pair of Stones, one pair of which are French-burr, employed in the merchant business. The Mill house is of Stone, large and commodious, the dwelling house, which is convenient, is within thirty yards of it; and has a Garden enclosed adjoining. A Cooper's Shop is also near, and the whole convenient to tide water.

Having been thus particular, with respect to my Mills, and my wants, I shall thank you Gentn. for a full and unreserved character of the anonymous advertiser, and the terms on which he would engage. If you think this man wou'd not answer my purpose, or shou'd he be engag'd, do you know of any one who, from what I have here said, would? Your answer to this letter as soon as convenient will very much oblige Gentn., Yr. etc.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>12</sup> William Roberts.

<sup>13</sup> From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.



\*To JAMES DUANE<sup>14</sup>

Rocky Hill, September 7, 1783.

Sir: I have carefully perused the Papers which you put into my hands relative to Indian Affairs.

My Sentiments with respect to the proper line of Conduct to be observed towards these people coincides precisely with those delivered by Genl. Schuyler, so far as he has gone in his Letter of the 29th. July to Congress (which, with the other Papers is herewith returned), and for the reasons he has there assigned; a repetition of them therefore by me would be unnecessary. But independant of the arguments made use of by him the following considerations have no small weight in my Mind.

To suffer a wide extended Country to be over run with Land Jobbers, Speculators, and Monopolisers or even with scatter'd settlers, is, in my opinion, inconsistent with that wisdom and policy which our true interest dictates, or that an enlightened People ought to adopt and, besides, is pregnant of disputes both with the Savages, and among ourselves, the evils of which are easier, to be conceived than described; and for what? but to aggrandize a few avaricious Men to the prejudice of many, and the embarrassment of Government. for the People engaged in these pursuits without contributing in the smallest degree to the support of Government, or considering themselves as amenable to its Laws, will involve it by their unrestrained conduct, in inextricable perplexities, and more than probable in a great deal of Bloodshed.

My ideas therefore of the line of Conduct proper to be observed not only towards the Indians, but for the government of the Citizens of America, in their Settlement of the Western

<sup>14</sup>Chairman of the Committee of Congress to confer with the Commander in Chief.

Country (which is intimately connected therewith) are simply these.

First and as a preliminary, that all Prisoners of whatever age or Sex, among the Indians shall be delivered up.

That the Indians should be informed, that after a Contest of eight years for the Sovereignty of this Country G: Britain has ceded all the Lands of the United States within the limits described by the *arte.* of the Provisional Treaty.

That as they (the Indians) maugre all the advice and admonition which could be given them at the commencement; and during the prosecution of the War could not be restrained from acts of Hostility, but were determined to join their Arms to those of G Britain and to share their fortune; so, consequently, with a less generous People than Americans they would be made to share the same fate; and be compell'd to retire along with them beyond the Lakes. But as we prefer Peace to a state of Warfare, as we consider them as a deluded People; as we persuade ourselves that they are convinced, from experience, of their error in taking up the Hatchet against us, and that their true Interest and safety must now depend upon *our* friendship. As the Country, is large enough to contain us all; and as we are disposed to be kind to them and to partake of their Trade, we will from these considerations and from motives of Compn., draw a veil over what is past and establish a boundary line between them and us beyond which we will *endeavor* to restrain our People from Hunting or Settling, and within which they shall not come, but for the purposes of Trading, Treating, or other business unexceptionable in its nature.

In establishing this line, in the first instance, care should be taken neither to yield nor to grasp at too much. But to endeavor to impress the Indians with an idea of the generosity of

our disposition to accommodate them, and with the necessity we are under, of providing for our Warriors, our Young People who are growing up, and strangers who are coming from other Countries to live among us. and if they should make a point of it, or appear dissatisfied at the line we may find it necessary to establish, compensation should be made them for their claims within it.

It is needless for me to express more explicitly because the tendency of my observns. evinces it is my opinion that if the Legislature of the State of New York should insist upon expelling the Six Nations from all the Country they Inhabited previous to the War, within their Territory (as General Schuyler seems to be apprehensive of) that it will end in another Indian War. I have every reason to believe from my enquiries, and the information I have received, that they will not suffer their Country (if it was our policy to take it before we could settle it) to be wrested from them without another struggle. That they would compromise for a part of it I have very little doubt, and that it would be the cheapest way of coming at it, I have no doubt at all. The same observations, I am perswaded, will hold good with respect to Virginia, or any other state which has powerful Tribes of Indians on their Frontiers; and the reason of my mentioning New York is because General Schuyler has expressed his opinion of the temper of its Legislature; and because I have been more in the way of learning the Sentimts. of the Six Nations, than of any other Tribes of Indians on this Subject.

The limits being sufficiently extensive (in the New Ctry.) to comply with all the engagements of Government and to admit such emigrations as may be supposed to happen within a given time not only from the several States of the Union but from Foreign Countries, and moreover of such magnitude as to

form a distinct and proper Government; a Proclamation in my opinion, should issue, making it Felony (if there is power for the purpose and if not imposing some very heavy restraint) for any person to Survey or Settle beyond the Line; and the Officers Commanding the Frontier Garrison should have pointed and peremptory orders to see that the Proclamation is carried into effect.

Measures of this sort would not only obtain Peace from the Indians, but would, in my opinion, be the surest means of preserving it. It would dispose of the Land to the best advantage; People the Country progressively, and check Land Jobbing and Monopolizing (which is now going forward with great avidity) while the door would be open, and the terms known for every one to obtain what is reasonable and proper for himself upon legal and constitutional ground.

Every advantage that could be expected or even wished for would result from such a mode of procedure our Settlements would be compact, Government well established, and our Barrier formidable, not only for ourselves but against our Neighbours, and the Indians as has been observed in Genl Schuylers Letter will ever retreat as our Settlements advance upon them and they will be as ready to sell, as we are to buy; That it is the cheapest as well as the least distressing way of dealing with them, none who are acquainted with the Nature of Indian warfare, and has ever been at the trouble of estimating the expence of one, and comparing it with the cost of purchasing their Lands, will hesitate to acknowledge.

Unless some such measures as I have here taken the liberty of suggesting are speedily adopted one of two capital evils, in my opinion, will inevitably result, and is near at hand; either that the settling, or rather overspreading the Western Country will take place, by a parcel of Banditti, who will bid defiance

to all Authority while they are skimming and disposing of the Cream of the Country at the expence of many suffering Officers and Soldiers who have fought and bled to obtain it, and are now waiting the decision of Congress to point them to the promised reward of their past dangers and toils, or a renewal of Hostilities with the Indians, brought about more than probably, by this very means.

How far agents for Indian Affrs. are indispensably necessary I shall not take upon me to decide; but if any should be appointed, their powers in my opinion should be circumscribed, accurately defined, and themselves rigidly punished for every infraction of them. A recurrence to the conduct of these People under the British Administration of Indian Affairs will manifest the propriety of this caution, as it will there be found, that self Interest was the principle by which their Agents were actuated; and to promote this by accumulating Lands and passing large quantities of Goods thro their hands, the Indians were made to speak any language they pleased by their representation; were pacific or hostile as their purposes were most likely to be promoted by the one or the other. No purchase under any pretence whatever should be made by any other authority than that of the Sovereign power, or the Legislature of the State in which such Lands may happen to be. Nor should the Agents be permitted directly or indirectly to trade; but to have a fixed, and ample Salary allowed them as a full compensation for their trouble.

Whether in practice the measure may answer as well as it appears in theory to me, I will not undertake to say; but I think, if the Indian Trade was carried on, on Government Acct., and with no greater advance than what would be necessary to defray the expence and risk, and bring in a small profit, that it would supply the Indians upon much better terms than

they usually are; engross their Trade, and fix them strongly in our Interest; and would be a much better mode of treating them than that of giving presents; where a few only are benefitted by them. I confess there is a difficulty in getting a Man, or set of Men, in whose Abilities and integrity there can be a perfect reliance; without which, the scheme is liable to such abuse as to defeat the salutary ends which are proposed from it. At any rate, no person should be suffered to Trade with the Indians without first obtaining a license, and giving security to conform to such rules and regulations as shall be prescribed; as was the case before the War.

In giving my Sentiments in the Month of May last (at the request of a Committee of Congress) on a Peace Establishmt. I took the liberty of suggesting the propriety, which in my opinion there appeared, of paying particular attention to the French and other Settlers at Detroit and other parts within the limits of the Western Country; the perusal of a late Pamphlet entitled "Observations on the Commerce of the American States with Europe and the West Indies" impresses the necessity of it more forcibly than ever on my Mind. The author of that Piece strongly recommends a liberal change in the Government of Canada, and tho' he is too sanguine in his expectations of the benefits arising from it, there can be no doubt of the good policy of the measure. It behooves us therefore to counteract them, by anticipation. These People have a disposition towards us susceptible of favorable Impressions; but as no Arts will be left unattempted by the British to withdraw them from our Interest, the prest. moment should be employed by us to fix them in it, or we may loose them forever; and with them, the advantages, or disadvantages consequent of the choice they may make. From the best information and Maps of that Country, it would appear that from the Mouth of the

Great Miami River wch. empties into the Ohio to its confluence with the Mad River, thence by a Line to the Miami Fort and Village on the other Miami River wch. empties into Lake Erie, and Thence by a Line to include the Settlement of Detroit would with Lake Erie to the No. ward Pensa. to the Eastwd. and the Ohio to the Soward form a Governmt. sufficiently extensive to fulfill all the public engagements, and to receive moreover a large population by Emigrants, and to confine The Settlement of the New States within these bounds would, in my opinion, be infinitely better even supposing no disputes were to happen with the Indians and that it was not necessary to guard against those other evils which have been enumerated than to suffer the same number of People to roam over a Country of at least 500,000 Square Miles contributing nothing to the support, but much perhaps to the Embarrassment of the Federal Government.

Was it not for the purpose of comprehending the Settlement of Detroit within the Jurisdn. of the New Governmt a more compact and better shaped district for a State would be for the line to proceed from the Miami Fort and Village along the River of that name to Lake Erie. leaving In that case the Settlement of Detroit, and all the Territory No. of the Rivers Miami and St. Josephs between the Lakes Erie, St. Clair, Huron, and Michigan to form, hereafter, another State equally large compact and water bounded.

At first view, it may seem a little extraneous, when I am called upon to give an opinion upon the terms of a Peace proper to be made with the Indians, that I should go into the formation of New States; but the Settlemt. of the Western Country and making a Peace with the Indians are so analogous that there can be no definition of the one without involving considerations of the other. for I repeat it, again, and I am clear in my

opinion, that policy and œconomy point very strongly to the expediency of being upon good terms with the Indians, and the propriety of purchasing their Lands in preference to attempting to drive them by force of arms out of their Country; which as we have already experienced is like driving the Wild Beasts of the Forest which will return us soon as the pursuit is at an end and fall perhaps on those that are left there; when the gradual extension of our Settlements will as certainly cause the Savage as the Wolf to retire; both being beasts of prey tho' they differ in shape. In a word there is nothing to be obtained by an Indian War but the Soil they live on and this can be had by purchase at less expence, and without that bloodshed, and those distresses which helpless Women and Children are made partakers of in all kinds of disputes with them.

If there is any thing in these thoughts (which I have fully and freely communicated) worthy attention I shall be happy and am Sir Yr. etc.

P. S. A formal Address, and memorial from the Oneida Indians when I was on the Mohawk River, setting forth their Grievances and distresses and praying relief, induced me to order a pound of Powder and 3 lbs. of Lead to be issued to each Man, from the Military Magazines in the care of Colo. Willet; this, I presume, was unknown to Genl. Schuyler at the time he recommended the like measure in his Letter to Congress.

#### OBSERVATIONS ON AN INTENDED REPORT OF A COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS ON A PEACE ESTABLISHMENT

Rocky Hill, September 8, 1783.

Upon a careful examination of the Report delivered to Congress the 17th of June, by the Committee on the Peace Arrangement, the following remarks have occurred:



Notwithstanding there may not be any very essential difference between the proposed *Plan* for a standing Force now under consideration, and the Sketches which were given in my Memorial of the 1st of May; yet it is my wish to make known the Motives which induced me to offer my former opinions, together with the reasons which now lead me to differ in judgment from the Committee in some instances respecting the Peace Arrangement, and to alter my sentiments on other points in consequence of new informations which have been produced by farther discussion.

The principal reasons for my proposing that the Pay and Subsistence of the Officers should remain the same as they now are (except in the instances specified) were, because, that compensation had generally been deemed adequate and not too high; and because we had found by experience, after many changes and alterations, the present allowance to be better proportioned to the different grades, more satisfactory to the Officers, and less inconvenient to the Public than any System which had been attempted; Nor can I agree with the Committee that the Establishment reported by them is more economical than either of the Plans which have been proposed, since the number of Men in their Establishment actually to be raised, exceeds that suggested in my Memorial by upwards of four hundred. And the encrease of Pay in consequence of an additional number of Superior Officers in the Corps of Engineers will more than Counterbalance the saving which will be made by the proposed diminution of the Pay of the regimental Staff and Subalterns. And yet I know not whether this encrease of Expence may not be expedient and necessary, at least I should not make any objection to the augmentation of the number of Men in the Infantry Compys, as the various and dispersed services, to which they will be destined, may probably require more

than I had taken into my calculation; And the blending the Engineers and Artillerists of the Army in one Corps may make it requisite to add the number of Officers proposed by the Committee; which will under those circumstances justify a departure from the present Artillery Establishment on which my Estimate was founded. And here I will take the liberty to suggest the expediency of restraining all Officers stationed in the Indian Country from carrying on, directly or indirectly, any Commerce or Traffic whatever with the Natives; it would be better to make a pecuniary compensation for any extra trouble of the Commanding Officer, in giving passes and regulating these things, than to suffer so pernicious a custom to take place.

Perhaps it is rather unimportant in what manner some little alterations shall be decided, as for instance, whether the third Officer of a Compy shall be called a Lt or an Ensign, provided the duties and emoluments are perfectly defined; but I highly approve the Scheme of having supernumeraries appointed to fill the Staff-Offices, without depriving the Compys of their full proportion of Officers.

The same reason which makes it proper to have two Sergt. Majors &c in each Regt. of Infantry, will also make it equally necessary to have two Surgeons Mates.

It appears to me in case the Pay of the Privates shall be established at two Dollars pr Month, that a considerable Bounty will be required to enlist them, or that the States, after having their quotas apportioned to them, must be obliged to keep their Compliment constantly in Service. I am also of opinion that to the annual allowance of Cloathing pr Man One Blanket, two pair Woolen Hose, and one or two Shirts, should be added; also 8 or 10 Watch Coats pr Company.

The rule of promotion proposed seems unexceptionable; but the perpetual confusion which must ensue, from promotions

being made in a Corps composed of Officers and Men of different States, by the Authority of each of those different States, will totally destroy all regularity in our Military System. "It would indeed be much to be preferred that the States could be induced to transfer this right to Congress;" And possibly, upon condition of confining the appointment and promotion of Officers, in equal proportions to the particular States whose Troops form a Regt. the right might be yielded; for example if New Hampshire gives two Compys and Massachusetts Six, the Officers then to be appointed and kept in service from those two States to be in as nearly the Ratio of 2 to 6 as possible; the same, if another Regt. should be formed by the States of R Island, Connect. New York and New Jersey &c. &c.

On the Committees' Report respecting Fortifications, Arsenals and Magazines, Military Academies, Foundries and Manufactories, General Staff, and General Hospital no observations are necessary; except that it is the opinion of the Committee, the establishment of five instead of three Magazines, is necessary, I shall not make any hesitation in yielding to their sentiment; I wish not to be too tenacious, tho' the division of the Continent into three districts had been suggested, in addition to the reasons I formerly mentioned, by a similar distribution which Congress had made in the Article of promotion; but I must beg leave to remark, that the general outlines for the Establishment of the national Militia, do not seem to me to be so well calculated to answer the object in view, as could be wished. Altho, unacquainted as I am with the Militia Laws of the several States, I cannot undertake to say what particular regulation should be adopted for classing, or forming the great Body of Citizens, who must be borne on the Rolls of the Militia, and for obliging them to march for the public defence in a manner least inconvenient and most effectual; Yet I cannot but

think some more eligible Plan could be devised; and I am fully persuaded, that the Fensibles, Fusileers, or Train Bands formed of the Inhabitants of Cities and Incorporated Towns will not afford that prompt and efficacious resistance to an Enemy, which might be expected from regularly established Light Infantry Companies, or a general selection of the ablest Men from every Regt. or Brigade of Militia in either of the Modes I had formerly the honor to propose; because such an Establishment would, in my opinion, be more agreeable to the genius of our Countrymen; because it would distribute military knowledge and ambition more equally and extensively; because, it would on these Accounts prevent Jealousies, and afford the same kind of protection to every part of the Union, which the Companys designated by the Name of Minute-Men did at the Commencement of the late war; and because, the number being fixed to any proportion from  $1/8$  to  $1/50$  of the whole Militia, that number of disciplined effective Men may always be relied on in case of a war, as an effectual Barrier to stop the torrent of Hostility, until a regular and permanent force could be levied; And in order to make this Corps the more respectable, I should heartily concur in giving them a superiority of rank, immunities or emoluments over the rest of the Militia.<sup>18</sup>

TO NICHOLAS COVENHOVEN<sup>19</sup>

Rocky Hill, September 8, 1783.

Sir: Through Dr. Witherspoon I have received your Memorial with the enclosed Certificates; but so much time has elapsed since the period you allude to, in which you say you promised to perform particular services for me, that I have not

<sup>18</sup>The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys and David Cobb. (See *Sentiments on a Peace Establishment*, vol. 26, p. 374.)

<sup>19</sup>Of New Utrecht, Kings County, N. Y.

the least remembrance of any circumstance of the kind; But this however, I recollect, that the morning on which General Howe moved with the British Army from the place he first landed at on Long Island, you came to my Quarters and gave me information of it; and I have very frequently heard from the American Officers who have been prisoners on Long Island, that on all occasions you was their friend, and had generously supplied them with Money and every conveniency your situation would afford.

From the Account of your supplies of Money which have been made to the State and to individuals, I am fully perswaded that the Government of New York [will give a favorable attention to your case, and regard the certificates of which you have furnished me with Copies, as a strong evidence of your Inclination to support the American cause, at the same time that it furnishes instances of yr. humanity in relieving the distresses of suffering Prisoners.]<sup>17</sup>

#### TO REVEREND JOHN WITHERSPOON

Rocky Hill, September 8, 1783.

Sir: I enclose to your care a Letter to Mr. Cowenhoven<sup>18</sup> in answer to his Memorial and request, and his Letter to you and the President of Congress.

In the course of Mr. Cowenhoven's Memorial he takes occasion to mention his assistance to one Mr. Wyckoff,<sup>19</sup> who, he says, was employed by Governor Clinton [and me] to bring Money from Long Island; all the agency I had in this matter, was giving an Order, at the request of Governor Clinton, to the

<sup>17</sup> The draft is in the writing of David Cobb. The portion in brackets is in the writing of Washington.

<sup>18</sup> Cowenhoven (Cowenhoven).

<sup>19</sup> Hendrick Wyckoff. He was captain of the Dutchess County (New York) militia.

Officer Commanding our out Post, to permit Mr. Wyckoff to pass to Long Island, he being a public Agent appointed by the Governor to transact some business for the State, which the Legislature had directed. I thought it necessary to give you this information, to prevent any false impressions that might be made in your mind, on the reading of Mr. Cowvenhoven's Memorial, which may convey an Idea, that I had been concerned in a sinister intercourse with the Enemies of my Country; [he nor no other person, directly or indirectly was ever employed by me on such business.]<sup>20</sup>

\*To THOMAS PAINE

Rocky Hill, September 10, 1783.

Sir: It is some time since I was favored with your Letter of the 22d. of July; not however by the Gentleman for whose benefit it was written; him I have not yet seen, when I do, I shall take pleasure in shewing him every civility in my power agreeably to your wishes.

But for an expression in your letter, which led me to expect that another on a more interesting subject would, soon follow (but which is not yet come to hand) I should have acknowledged the receipt of it long ago. I have learnt since I came to this place that you are at Borden Town; whether for the sake of retirement or œconomy I know not, be it either, for both, or whatever it may, if you will come to this place and partake of my Board I shall be exceedingly happy to see you at it. Your presence may remind Congress of your past Services to this Country, and if it is in my power to impress them, command my best exertions with freedom, as they will be rendered chear-

<sup>20</sup>In the writing of David Cobb. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

fully by one who entertains a lively sense of the importance of your Works and who with much pleasure subscribes himself Your sincere friend etc.

**\*To MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT HOWE**

Rocky Hill, September 10, 1783.

Dear Sir: As there is but one Regiment at Philadelphia to march to West Point, and the Troops when they get there take their Orders from the Commanding Officer of the Garrison (agreeably to the Original disposition of them) till Congress shall have determined upon a Peace Establishment; there can be no necessity for your marching with your present command, in its reduced state to that place. I mention the matter to you therefore at this time, that you may be at perfect liberty to move with it, or not, as you may find it most convenient and agreeable to your own Inclination.

A Committee of Congress have, for some days past, had the Peace Establishment under consideration, but I do not know whether they have come to any resolutions thereupon, or not. I am etc.

**\*To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON**

Rocky Hill, September 11, 1783.

My dear Sir: It was with great concern I heard of your Indisposition; later Accts. say you were upon the recovery, and nothing would give me more pleasure than the confirmation of it from under your own hand.

I am not able to give you any information on the point you requested, at our parting. Congress have come to no determination *yet* respecting the Peace Establishment, nor am I able to say when they will. I have lately had a conference with a

Committee on this subject, and have reiterated my former opinions, but it appears to me that there is not a sufficient representation to discuss *Great* National points; nor do I believe there will be while that Honble. Body continue their Sessions at this place. The want of accomodation, added to a disinclination in the Southern Delegates to be further removed (than they formerly were) from the Centre of the Empire, and an aversion in the others to give up, what they conceive to be a point gained, by the late retreat to this place; keeps matters in an awkward Situation; to the very great interruption of National concerns. Seven States it seems (by the Articles of Confederation) must agree before any place can be fixed on for the Seat of the Federal Governmt; and Seven States it is said, never will agree. consequently as Congress came here, here they are to remain to the dissatisfaction of the Majority, and the great let to business; having none of the Public Offices about them, nor no places to accommodate them if they were brought up; And the Members from this, or some other Causes, are eternally absent.

Mrs. Washington has had a severe return of the Cholic since she came to this place, but is now as well as usual. She joins me very cordially in best wishes for your perfect recovery, and in Affectionate Compliments to Mrs. Clinton. With the sincerest esteem etc.<sup>21</sup>

**\*To MAJOR BENJAMIN TALLMADGE**

Rocky Hill, September 11, 1783.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 16th. of August with the accts. enclosed, did not reach my hands till within these few days.

I have no doubt, because I suppose S: C:<sup>22</sup> to be an honest Man, that the Monies charged in his Acct. have been expended,

<sup>21</sup> From the original in Princeton University Library.

<sup>22</sup> Samuel Culper.



and therefore should be paid; but the Services which were rendered by him (however well meant) was by no means adequate to these Expenditures. My Complaints on this head, before I knew the amount of his charges, you may remember were frequent; and but for the request of Count de Rochambeau, who told me that he had put money into your hands, and would continue to furnish you with more for the purpose of obtaining intelligence through this Channel, I should have discontinued the Services of S. C long before a cessation of hostilities took place, because his communications were never frequent, and always tedious in getting to hand.

At present, as your Acct. has no credits to it, it is impossible for me to strike the Balle. I know what Sums you have had from me, but if there are any credits due to it for monies furnished by the French General, it ought to be known, provided the Intelligence which was communicated to him came from Culper Senr. as the Acct. of this person (which is exhibited as an Article of charge against me) comprehends the whole of his Services and the Expences attending them; and that this was the case, I am to presume, as the Intelligence received by the Count (Copy of which he always forwarded to me) was precisely the same as that which was transmitted to me at the same periods.

As soon as you shall have furnished me with these documents and will let me know the Sum you received from Colo. Henley in the Year 1778 (the Accts. of whom being among Papers which are not easily got at) I will settle the acct; and use my best endeavors to obtain money to discharge the Balle., wch. indeed will be no very easy matter, as it is with the utmost difficulty any can be had for the most indispensably necessary purposes; so little do the States *now* care for past Services and the means for rewardg. them.

I cannot conclude without offering you my sincere and affectionate thanks for your good wishes, and the favourable Sentiments you have been pleased to express of me; the ready obedience, and polite attention which I have ever experienced from the officers of the Army, over whom I have had the honor to preside, fills me with the most pleasing sensations; the reflection of which will contribute not a little to my future happiness; to none, am I more indebted for these than to yourself, and with great truth I can assure you that at all times and in whatever place I may be, I shall have pleasure in seeing you, and making these acknowledgments, being with much truth Dr. Sir, etc.

\*To DANIEL PARKER

Rocky Hill, September 12, 1783.

Sir: If you have not already sent the two Pipes of Wine to Virginia which you promised to do, and it is no disappointment to you, to retain one of them the other will be suffit. for my purpose, as I have just got an Acct. of the arrival of two other Pipes of Madeira in Maryland, for my use.

If there are Wine and Beer Glasses (the latter of the same shape but larger in size) exactly like those which Mr. Fraunces brought to Orange Town, of which he will have a perfect recollection, I should be glad, if an opportunity offers to Alexandria, to get Six dozn. or more of the first, and three dozn. of the latter with as many Water Glasses, together with one dozn. and half neat quart decanters, and as many Water Bottles for Table use, carefully packed (which I am sure Mr. Fraunces will have done for me) and sent to that place.<sup>23</sup>

<sup>23</sup> These glasses, water bottles, etc., were purchased by Samuel Fraunces on September 18 from Edward Nicholl, jr., at a cost of £ 42:10:0.

The cost of these, together with the Pipe of Wine, and such other things as have been got on my *private* Acct. by Colo Smith or yourself, please to forward; and I will send you the Amount in Bank Notes by the first safe conveyance which shall present itself to me.

If there are none of the kind of Glasses here described, (which pleased my fancy) to be had, I would buy none; as I may have an opportunity of indulging my taste in another kind at Philadelphia (as I return home) upon as good terms as the New York Markets afford.

If a neat and compleat sett of blue and White Table China could be had upon pretty good terms, be pleased to inform me of it, and the price.<sup>24</sup> Not less than 6 or 8 dozn. Shallow and a proportionable number of Deep and other Plates, Butter Boats, Dishes and Tureens, will suffice. They some times come in compleat setts ready packed; shou'd this be the case, altho' there may be a greater number of Pieces than I have mentioned, I should have no objection to a case on that acct.

Be so good as to let me have your answer as soon as convenient, as it will prevent an application elsewhere, or may render one necessary. I wish also to know if you have received a Line from Colo. Cobb respecting Tea &c. I am etc.

PS. Will you be so good as to inform me what Goods, for family use, are very low in New York, and if they are to be had cheaper, than Goods of the same kind and quality, at Philadelphia.

<sup>24</sup>The blue and white china was also obtained September 18. It consisted of 205 pieces and cost 36 guineas.

On September 12 David Cobb wrote to Maj. William Macpherson that his request could not be granted as "all the Generals papers being packed for Transportation and at a distance from this place . . . but I am directed by His Excellency to inform you, that so far as he can recollect of the Letter you have reference to, the Marquis spoke of you in the highest terms and recommended you as an officer of the first merit." Cobb's draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

## \*To LEWIS PINTARD

Princeton, September 14, 1783.

Sir: Long before this letter can have reached you, the Cost of the first Wine had from Mr. Searle must, no doubt, have been paid to you; before the receipt of it, I saw Mr. Parker, who told me the Money had, for some time, been lodged in the hands of a Gentleman (whose name I do not now recollect) in New York, and notice given of it to the Person at whose House you usually lodge in the City.

I have since received a Letter, Invoice, and Bill of Lading for the two other Pipes of Wine from Mr. Searle together with a Box of Citron, and two Baskets of Figs; but instead of their being sent to my House on Potomack River agreeably to my *express* request, and according to the Tenor of the Bills of Lading, I have received advice of their being Landed at Baltimore in Maryland; Sixty odd Miles distant by Land, and more than 300 by Water; how to Account for this I am at a loss, for it is not only contrary to my Order and expectation, but it is so contrary also to my wishes that I had infinitely rather they should be in Madeira; not on Acct. of the expence of transporting them from place to place, inland, nor on acct. of what is really pilfered; but because the quantity drawn is generally made good with something else, and the quality of the Wine, very often, totally ruined by it.

When I hear something further of these things, and have a satisfactory reason assigned for Landing them at Baltimore, instead of their being sent to Potomack as my Order pointedly required, I shall be ready to pay the further Sum of £74.9.6 Sterlg. to you, or your order; but I must confess, that in such an Article as Wine where Age and its being of a good quality

Originally can alone render it valuable I can by no means reconcile it to myself to have it Landed in one State when it is Ordered to another, thereby encountering *almost* the certainty of adulteration by common Boatmen, or commn Waggoners. I am etc.

TO BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM IRVINE

Rocky Hill, September 16, 1783.

Sir: Your Letter of the 6th. by Lieut. Rose has been duly received.

As the Secrety at War had undertaken to furlough all that part of the Army which lay South of the Delaware, I was much surprised, on the receipt of your Letter, to find that business so irregularly conducted at Fort Pitt; but on enquiry at the War Office, the difficulty seems evidently to have originated from circumstances that could not have been foreseen, the particulars of which you will be fully informed of, by Majr. Jackson, the Assist. Secrety. at War, and which, I hope will be perfectly satisfactory to you. I am etc.<sup>25</sup>

TO MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Rocky Hill, September 17, 1783.

Dear Sir: Your two Letters of the 3d and 10th. inst., with the enclosed Returns, have been duly received.

To prevent the trouble in future of transmitting the particular Returns of each Corps, let the Fort Major or Adjutant, digest them into one General Return, as I only wish to have a view of the general strength and state of the Troops.

<sup>25</sup> The draft is in the writing of David Cobb.

[As Congress have reassumed the consideration of a Peace Establishment, it is probable that something on that subject will be determined in the course of a few weeks, when the final arrangement of the Troops on the North River will take place; 'till then, it will be unnecessary to make any distributions of Cloathing, except what is absolutely necessary.]

Ater the evacuation of New York, it is my present determination to make a visit to West Point, (with the whole or part of Congress, if they can be persuaded,) to partake of the festivity on the celebration of Peace, if the Season should be far advanced before this event takes place, the joyfulness of the occasion must palliate for the uncomfortable state of the Bowers.

I think it necessary that the Artillery Officer and Men, you mention, should be sent immediately to the Posts on the Mohawk River, and it would be best to detach them from the New York Regt. With compliments to Mrs. Knox, I am etc.<sup>26</sup>

\*To DANIEL PARKER

Rocky Hill, September 18, 1783.

Sir: Be so good as to receive from Colo. Smith, Fifty Guineas which were left in his hands, for my use, by the Count Del Vermé; and apply them to my Credit in payment for the Pipe of Wine (which was to be sent to Virginia) with the other

<sup>26</sup>The draft is in the writing of David Cobb, in which opposite the paragraph in brackets, Washington has written in the margin "Copy of this Paragraph sent to Congress Sep. 19th." (See Washington's letter to the President of Congress, Sept. 19, 1783.)

On September 17 Cobb wrote to Pickering that Humphreys was sick with a fever, and the General directs Cobb to inform Pickering that Captain Bushnell is entitled to forage for a horse since the period of Captain Gilleland's resignation, "not however on the principle of his belonging to the Corps of Engineers, who are allowed horses, as the establishment of the Corps of Sappers and Miners was expressly without that preveledge; but from his having performed since Octr. 1782 the duties of those Staff Officers, who in the general establishment of the Army, are allowed forage; this allowance is made by the General on this express condition, that no other Officer of that Corps shall be entitled to the same preveledge." The draft of Cobb's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

things, if they could be got, agreeably to my former letter of the 12th.

You will do me a favor by requesting Mr. Fraunces to enquire if a *good* Cook, German I should prefer, could be obtained, and sent to me immediately. Mrs. Thompson,<sup>27</sup> formerly my Housekeeper and lately gone to the City probably can assist in the enquiries and examination. I want a Person that has understanding in the business. who can order, as well as get a dinner; who can make dishes, and proportion them *properly*, to any Company which shall be named to him to the amount of 30. If such a Person can be had who is well recommended for honesty, sobriety and good temper I should think myself fortunate.

As the army as well as many Genteel Families are now upon the point of leaving New York I should not conceive it to be very difficult to succeed. I am &c.

#### \*TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Rocky Hill, September 18, 1783.

Sir: The resolve of Congress, enclosed in Your Excellency's favor of Yesterday, for permitting me to have access to the Secret Papers of Congress,<sup>28</sup> under the same injunctions as Members; is a high and honourable testimony of the confidence reposed in me by that Honble. Body, and is only to be equalled by the polite and flattering expressions with which you have accompanied it. I have the honor etc.

<sup>27</sup> Mrs. Elizabeth Thompson.

<sup>28</sup> Sept. 15, 1783. The motion was made by Daniel Carroll and seconded by James McHenry.

On September 18 Washington certified that [Philip] Strubing had served as lieutenant of horse [Von Heer's corps] for four years as "a faithful and deserving Officer." The original of this certificate is in the possession of John K. Strubing, of Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, Pa.

## \*TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Rocky Hill, September 19, 1783.

Sir: The letter from General Duportail of which the enclosure No 1 is a Copy,<sup>20</sup> was presented to me yesterday. I beg leave, agreeably to the wishes of these Gentlemen, to recommend their case to the immediate, and serious consideration of Congress.<sup>21</sup>

I take the liberty also, of laying before Congress, an extract of a Letter No 2 from Majr. Genl Knox, on the Subject of Clothing for the Troops on the North River, together with my answer to it No 3.<sup>21</sup> Congress will readily perceive the necessity there is, of coming to a decision soon, with respect to the Force they mean to provide for.

Perhaps, among the multiplicity of public concerns, an attention to the Situation of the Troops on Furlough, may have yielded to more pressing business; but this being also a matter of importance, I take the liberty of bringing it to view; as, on the footing they stand at present considerable expence without the prospect of an adequate benefit, is incurred; unless the impolicy of giving by public Proclamation, authenticity to the discharges while the British forces remain in New York, can be deemed such. I call them discharges, because it is in this light the Furloughs have all along been considered; and no call, I am perswaded will ever bring the common Soldiery back to their Colours; the whole matter therefore lyes in balancing properly between the expence of delay and the public

<sup>20</sup> The original of this letter, dated Sept. 16, 1783, is in the *Washington Papers*. It concerns the situation of the French engineers, still with the Army.

<sup>21</sup> Washington replied to Du Portail (September 19) that he had laid his letter before Congress and would transmit its determination without delay. This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>22</sup> This letter from Knox, dated Sept. 10, 1783, is in the *Washington Papers*. (See Washington's letter to Maj. Gen. Henry Knox, Sept. 17, 1783.)



annunciation of an epocha which may be premature. I have the honor etc.<sup>82</sup>

### TO LUND WASHINGTON

Rocky Hill, September 20, 1783.

Dear Lund: Mrs. Custis<sup>83</sup> has never suggested in any of her Letters to Mrs. Washington (unless ardent wishes for her return, that she might then disclose it to her, can be so construed) the most distant attachment to D. S.;<sup>84</sup> but if this should be the case, and she wants advice upon it; a Father and Mother, who are at hand, and competent to give it, are at the same time most proper to be consulted on so interesting an event. For my own part, I never did, nor do I believe I ever shall give advice to a woman who is setting out on a matrimonial voyage; first, because I never could advise one to marry without her own consent; and secondly, because I know it is to no purpose to advise her to refrain, when she has obtained it. A woman very rarely asks an opinion or requires advice on such an occasion, 'till her resolution is formed; and then it is with the hope and expectation of obtaining a sanction, not that she means to be governed by your disapprobation, that she applies. In a word, the plain english of the application may be summed up in these words; "I wish you to think as I do; but if unhappily you differ from me in opinion, my heart, I must confess is fixed, and I have gone too far *now* to retract."

If Mrs. Custis should ever suggest any thing of this kind to me, I will give her my opinion of the *measure*, not of the *man*,

<sup>82</sup>This letter was read in Congress on September 19 and referred to Samuel Huntington, Elbridge Gerry, and James Duane.

<sup>83</sup>Mrs. John Parke Custis.

<sup>84</sup>Dr. David Stuart, of Fairfax County, Va. He was the son of Rev. William Stuart, of Stafford County, and was educated in Scotland and France. He later became one of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia.

with candour, and to the following effect. I never expected you would spend the residue of your days in widowhood; but in a matter so important, and so interesting to yourself, children and connexions; I wish you would make a prudent choice; to do which, many considerations are necessary; such as the family and connexions of the man, his fortune (which is not the *most* essential in my eye), the line of conduct he has observed, and disposition and frame of his mind. You should consider, what prospect there is of his proving kind and affectionate to you; just, generous and attentive to your children; and, how far his connexions will be agreeable to you; for when they are once formed, agreeable or not, the die being cast, your fate is fixed. Thus far, and no farther I shall go in my opinions. I am etc.<sup>28</sup>

\*TO CHEVALIER DE LA LUZERNE

Rocky Hill, September 22, 1783.

Sir: At the same time that I again thank your Excellency for offering me part of the Claret which you have at Baltimore, let me once more pray that my acceptance of it may put you to no inconvenience. I should be unhappy if I thought this would be the case. If, on the other hand, you can conveniently spare it, and Colo. Tilghman should be in Baltimore, I could wish to have it put into his care; as he will, I am sure, take pains to have it sent by a conveyance on which he can depend to my House in Virginia for the risk of adulteration is more to be apprehended than the quantity stolen in the transportation of it; two or three Hogsheads (as it best suits your Excellency) will be sufficient for my present purpose, and if you will be pleased to direct your merchant to furnish me with the Cost, the money shall be instantly paid to him, or to your order.

<sup>28</sup> From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

As I have never been accustomed to Claret in Cask, I shall thank you, Sir, for information whether it is to be drawn from thence as it is used, or whether it is to be bottled before using.

I take the liberty of asking this question, because I am sure you will have the goodness not only to satisfy me in it, but to excuse me for the trouble I give you in doing it, being assured of the perfect respect and consideration with which I have the honor etc.

### TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL VILLEFRANCHE

Princeton, September 22, 1783.

This may Certify that Lt Colo Villefranche entered the Service of the United States in 1776, as Captain of the Corps of Engineers, in 1777 was promoted to a Majority, and in May 1783 to a Lieut. Colo. in that Corps.

From the testimony of Majr. Generals Heath, Howe, McDougall and Knox, under whose Orders Lt. Colo. Villefranche has served, it appears that in the various services in which he has been constantly employed, he has shewn such zeal, activity, and knowledge of his profession, as to entitle him to thier highest approbation.

During great part of the above mentioned time, Lieut. Colo. Villefranche has served in the Army under my immediate Command, and it affords me great pleasure to give this testimony of my entire satisfaction at every part of his conduct that has fallen under my notice, which has been such as justly entitles him to the Character of a brave and deserving Officer.<sup>86</sup>

<sup>86</sup> The draft is in the writing of David Cobb.

On September 22 Washington wrote to Lieut. Col. Samuel Safford, acknowledging receipt of his acceptance of the commutation in lieu of half-pay and referring him to the Paymaster General for the adjustment of his accounts. This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

## TO BUSHROD WASHINGTON

Rocky Hill, September 22, 1783.

Dear Bushrod: With this you will receive the letter of your Aunt Lewis,<sup>27</sup> to me. Altho' I believe the ground she is proceeding upon, has more of the ideal than real advantages, which she expects from it, yet I have no objection to the experiments being made, and pray you to pursue the dictates of her letter, and communicate to me the result as soon as the necessary enquiries are made.

Let me beg of you to make enquiry of some of the best Cabinet makers, at what price, and in what time, two dozen strong, neat and plain, but fashionable, Table chairs (I mean chairs for a dining room) could be had; with strong canvas bottoms to receive a loose covering of check, or worsted, as I may hereafter choose.

Since I have already chalked out so much business for you, I will go further, and ask you to enquire at what prices the several kinds of French and other wines (Maderia excepted, of which I have enough) of good quality, can be bought; and whether the stock on hand, or the quantity expected, is said to be large. Give me the prices also of imported Nuts and Fruits of different kinds, by the measure, weight, jarr or otherwise as they are usually sold. Also of Olives, Capes Oil, Anchovies &c. As you are young in this business, take some Mentor as a guide to your enquires. I wish also that you would enquire, if there is any blue and white table china, to be had in settes and the price. Table china frequently comes in packed up in compleat setts, amounting to a gross, or gross and a half of pieces, all kinds included.

<sup>27</sup>Betty Lewis. Her letter is not now found among the *Washington Papers*.

There is another thing likewise which I wish to know, without having it known for whom the enquiry is made; and that is, whether French plate is fashionable and much used in genteel houses in France and England; and whether, as we have heard, the quantity in Philadelphia is large, of what pieces it consists, and whether among them, there are Tea urns, Coffee pots, Tea pots, and other equipage for a tea table, with a tea board, Candlesticks and waiters large and small, with the prices of each. These enquiries you may make in behalf of a friend, without bringing my name forward, 'till occasion (if a purchase shou'd happen) may require it.

Give me information upon these several matters, as soon as you conveniently can; and return my Sisters Letter, that I may the better know how to write to her. With great regard, I am, etc.<sup>38</sup>

\*To MAJOR GENERAL  
LOUIS LE BÈQUE DU PORTAIL

Rocky Hill, September 23, 1783.

Dear Sir: I was this day in conference with a Commee. of Congress upon the Subject of your letter to me of the 16th. Instt; they discovered every disposition to relieve the Gentn. of your departmt. from the state of uncertainty in wch. they are at prest., but wished previous to their making a report to Congress to obtain your Sentiments more in detail upon a proper Peace establishment for the Engineering Line of the Army, agreeably to the Idea contained in your general observations which are now before Congress. I know you will require more information than they, or I, can give you in the undecided state in which things now are before you can deliver a precise opinion

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<sup>38</sup>From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

but all the data I can give you to work upon, is, that we ought to maintain West Point as a Post; those which the British are to surrender to us; and such as it may be found necessary to establish West and So. West of them upon our interior boundary and at these too upon the most æconomical plan.

The sooner you can favor the Comtee. (or me in their behalf) with your sentiments on this subject, the sooner the matter will be brought to a decision. In the mean time, if you have it in your power, you would oblige me by giving me information of the names of the Gentn. in yr. departmt. who are disposed to remain in this Country upon a Peace establishment. I am etc.

**\*To MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT HOWE OR OFFICER  
COMMANDING AT PHILADELPHIA**

Rocky Hill, September 23, 1783.

Dear Sir: Congress by a resolve of this date, have directed me to dispose of the Regiment which remains at Philadelphia in any manner I shall see fit.

As the business which required the Presence of Troops at Philadelphia, is accomplished and the proceedings approved and acted upon by Congress, I am to desire that all the Troops at that place who are able to march, may commence it immediately for West point. and that such as are not able to march, may be left under proper Officers with orders to follow as soon as they are. I am etc.

**\*To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX**

Rocky Hill, September 23, 1783.

My dear Sir: The favorable Sentiments expressed in your private letter of the 17th. Inst, and which you say are felt by

the Officers in general on the late honor conferred upon me by Congress,<sup>39</sup> cannot fail of adding greatly to my sensibility on the occasion. It always has, and I trust ever will be, the most pleasing reflection of my life that in a contest so important, so long, and so arduous, accompanied with such a variety of distressing and perplexing circumstances to all who have been concerned in it but more especially to the Officers of the Army that I have been able, to point my course in such a manner, as to have receiv'd many flattering testimonies of regard from the latter and proofs of general esteem from my Country at large.

I have left no opportunity unimproved to bring the Officers Petition to an Issue. I have not heard an uplifted voice against it since I came to this place; and if I am to form a judgment from what I have seen and heard, Congress is sincerely disposed to serve them. but there *was* a difficulty in the way of which I had no knowledge 'till I came here, and it is not *absolutely* got over yet: <sup>40</sup> That District of Country located by the Petitioners is part of the Land claimed by Virginia; Virginia, with certain reservations, and upon Condition that the United States should Guarantee the remainder of her Territory, ceded all the Land Northwest of the Ohio. To these terms Congress would not agree; thus matters had stood for more than two years, and thus I found them when I came here. I have laboured since, and I hope not unsuccessfully, to convince the Members of Congress that while the United States and the State of Virginia are disputing about the right, or the terms of the Cession, Land jobbers and a lawless Banditti, who would bid defiance to the authority of either and more than probably involve this Country in an Indian War, would spread themselves over the whole

<sup>39</sup> Probably the resolves of Aug. 7, 1783, to erect an equestrian statue of Washington, which resolves were never carried out. The resolves are not now found in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>40</sup> The draft adds "tho' the general opinion is, it soon will be."

of it, to the great injury to the Officers &ca. of the Army, who are patiently waiting the decision of Congress to settle in a legal manner and under a proper form of Government. Within these few days, Congress have accepted the Virginia Cession with some exceptions which the Delegates from that State *think* will be yielded to by the Assembly at its next meeting in October. In the mean time, if it can be done with propriety, I will endeavor to have preparatory arrangements made, that no delay may happen when the present difficulties shall be removed.

As I have never heard it suggested by any *Member of Congress* that General Lincoln either had offered, or proposed to offer his resignation upon the arrival of the Definitive Treaty (tho' I have understood as much from himself) I have no ground, as yet, to work upon; but whenever the occasion shall offer, I shall not forget your wishes; nor shall I want inclination to promote them.

If you can learn by indirect means which of, or whether all the Engineers now at West point (if you could extend it to others thro' that channel so much the better), are inclined to remain in the American Service upon a Peace Establishment I would thank you for the information.

I shall be obliged to you for pointing out, in *precise terms*, what is expected from the President of the Cincinnati previous to the general Meeting in May next. As I never was present at any of your Meetings, and have never seen the proceedings of the last, I may, by being deficient in information of the part I am to act, neglect some essential duty; which might not only be injurious to the Society, but Mortifying to myself, as it would discover a want of Knowledge, or want of attention in the President.



Humphreys and Walker have each had an ill turn, since they came to this place; the latter is getting about, but the other is still in his Bed of a fever that did not 'till yesterday quit him for 14 or 15 days. The danger I hope is now past, and he has only his flesh to recover, part of which, or in other words of the weight he brought with him from the Scales at West point he would readily compound for.

Mrs. Washington has also been very unwell as most of my domesticks and Guard have been and indeed now are.

Mrs. Washington and myself are very glad to hear that Mrs. Knox and the Children are well, she joins me very cordially in best wishes for them, and Compliments to General and Mrs. Huntington and all our Acquaintances with you.<sup>41</sup> I am &c.

[MS.H.S.]

\*To WILLIAM FITZHUGH <sup>42</sup>

Princeton, September 24, 1783.

Dear Sir: The Count del Vermé who will present this letter to you, is an Italian Nobleman of distinction; on his Travels thro' America. He comes highly recommended by our Ministers at the Court of France, and from the opportunities I have had to form an opinion of him, is very deserving of attention. I take the liberty therefore of recommending him to your Civilities, and the Civilities of your Acquaintance.

As he has been through all the States Northward of this, and is now travelling to the Southward as far as Charles Town, there to Embark, it would be more satisfactory to pass down the Rappahannock to some certain point, and then cross over to York and James Rivers than to pursue the direct Road to the

<sup>41</sup>At this point in the draft the following is crossed off: "As Mr. Morris's distresses for want of money by no means diminish I not only approve of your."

<sup>42</sup>Of "Chatham," opposite Fredericksburg, Va.

latter through the most uncultivated part of the whole State and I persuade myself he will derive such aids and direction from you as will render his tour most agreeable. I am &c.<sup>43</sup>

\*To MRS. RUTHY JONES

Princeton, September 25, 1783.

Madam: A few days since Major Fishbourn, Aid de Camp to General Wayne, presented to me your letter of the 29th. of May from Belfast in Georgia. some years ago I had the honor to receive other letters from you on the same subject<sup>44</sup> one of which dated at the same place, I embraced the earliest opportunity of answering, but suppose it never got to hand as your last is written under the same mistake as the former.

The relationship which you seem to suppose there is betw. us does not exist of which you would have been clearly convinced if my former Letter had ever reached you.

My Father it is true had only one Brother; but this Bro: had Six Children; two Sons and four daughters, the eldest of whom Elizabeth died before him, in a Maiden State. the second, Mildred, is yet alive and a Widow having been twice married without Issue; the third, Warner, is also living; he has been twice Married, has had many Children and all of them are now with him; the 4th. Harry 5th. Catharine and 6th. Hannah are all 3 dead. Harry left 4 Children, A Son and 3 daughters two of the latter are dead; Catharine married Fielding Lewis Esqr. by whom she left a Son and daughter; the latter died without Issue; the former is now living. Hannah married a Whiting by whom she had a Son, who was an only child and who perished

<sup>43</sup> On September 24 a shorter letter of the same purport was written to Gov. William Paca, of Maryland, and on this was the note: "Letters similar to the above were written to Govr. Harrison, Genl. Nelson. The Honble. Archibald Cary and Colo. Fitzgerald."

<sup>44</sup> Asking for financial aid.

in the same Vessel in wch Mr. Lynch<sup>45</sup> and others from Charles Town were lost.<sup>46</sup>

By comparing this acct. Madam, with yours sent me in a letter of the 15th. of Septr. 1776 (committed to the care of Genl. Howe) in these words "My worthy Grand Father, Mr. John Washington was an own Brother to your venerable Father, who I dare say did not think, for years before he died, that any of his Brothers posterity were left, as my Grand father had but one Child which was my Mother &ca." I say by comg. these Accts. it will evidently appr. that you have mistaken me for some other person, for besides the striking difference between the two accts. my Father died many years before my Uncle, and the Issue of neither ever removed from Virginia into any other State. or Province, as they have been heretofore called to reside.

I have given you this full, and candid state of facts, to prove to you beyond a possibility of doubt, that I am not related to you in the degree you suppose, nor in any other that I can have the smallest conception of. I am etc.

\*To SAMUEL HUNTINGTON<sup>47</sup>

Rocky Hill, September 25, 1783.

Sir: I have perused the Report and Proclamation which you were pleased to put into my hands for consideration; and think an alteration in the first, and a consequent one in the other, indispensably necessary; Because, as the report now stands, it is not broad enough to comprehend the several cases which exist. for the Troops of the Southern Army were furloughed by

<sup>45</sup>Thomas Lynch, jr., signer of the Declaration of Independence. The vessel was lost in 1779.

<sup>46</sup>Augustine Washington died in 1743 and John Washington, his brother, died in 1746.

<sup>47</sup>Chairman of the Committee of Congress to prepare a proclamation for disbanding the Army.

General Green; whilst those, which lay in a manner between the two armies, were under the more immediate direction of the Secretary at War, and acted upon by him.

It appears to me proper therefore, to strike out the latter part of the Report and after the Words "during the War" in the third line, to insert. "and who by the resolutions of Congress of the ——— and of ——— were entitled to Furloughs be absolutely discharged from the said Service, from and after the ——— day of ——— next."

The Proclamation conforming thereto, Congress may, if they conceive there is a propriety in it, (after the necessary recitals are made) offer their thanks to the Army, *generally*, for its long and faithful Services; and then add; that the further Services in the field of the Officers who have been de-ranked and retired on furloughs in consequence of the aforesaid resolutions, can now be dispensed with; That they have the permission of Congress to retire from Service; and that they are no longer liable from their present Engagements to be called into Command again.

I can see no greater inconvenience resulting from this measure than is to be found in many other instances, arising from not making the Peace Establishment a primary, instead of a subsequent Act, to them; for had this taken place in time, a *system* might have been formed, and every thing relative to that system made to accord with it, whereas the longer it is delayed the more incongruous probably it will be, as we are by this means forming the extremities, before we have moulded the body. consequently the body must be made to conform, and grow to the limbs, not the limbs to the Body which may be found as difficult in the Political as Natural formation of things, and like thereunto the attempt more than probably will produce a Monster.

A Proclamation couched in some such terms as I have here suggested would I think, reduce all the General as well as other Officers except those who were retained with the three Years Men, and such as are immediately employed in the Staff which I think consists of only Baron de Steuben and G: Duportail and would moreover I think, leave out all the Engineers for the future decision of Congress. I have the honor etc.

TO JAMES CASSATY

Rocky Hill, September 25, 1783.

Sir: Your Letter of the 11th Instant came duly to hand, and I am sorry that the conduct of the Officer commanding at Oswego, put you to the inconveniencies you mention.

I expect Governor Clinton here in the course of a few days, when I shall confer with him on what is further necessary to be done in this affair. I am &c.<sup>48</sup>

TO MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Rocky Hill, September 25, 1783.

Dr. Sir: I have had the pleasure to receive your Letter of the 17 Instant.

Your Arrangements, in discharging the Invalids and contracting your deposits of Stores, meet my fullest approbation; the former especially not only second my views but those of Congress, whose wish it is, to diminish our force to the number only that may be absolutely necessary; and this I think may be estimated at 3000 Men. A formal resolution however to this effect, might not be so well, as to reduce the number insensibly by a more critical Inspection and discharge of all who have any

<sup>48</sup>The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

infirmities, and of those whose times are near expiring and this method I would wish you to adopt with the least possible Stir 'till you shall have brought your numbers to three Thousand Men, as above mentioned. I am &c.<sup>49</sup>

### TO MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT HOWE

Rocky Hill, September 26, 1783.

Dear Sir: I feel great pleasure in communicating to you the inclosed resolves of Congress,<sup>50</sup> approving your conduct in the execution of the service on which you have been employed: as well as that of the Troops who were under your Orders.

As great part of these Troops have already returned to West Point, I transmitted the resolves of Congress to Major General Knox, in a Letter of which the inclosed is Copy, in Order that so agreeable a testimony of their Conduct might be communicated to them as soon as possible. I am &c.

P.S. This moment I have received Your Letter of yesterday.<sup>49</sup>

### TO MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Rocky Hill, September 26, 1783.

Dear Sir: I am happy in transmitting to you the inclosed Resolves of Congress, which I must desire you to publish to the Army: and to assure General Howe and the Detachment who were under his command, of the pleasure it gives me, to communicate to them this public testimony of the approbation of Congress.<sup>51</sup> I am &c.<sup>49</sup> [MS.H.S.]

<sup>49</sup> The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

<sup>50</sup> See the *Journals of the Continental Congress* of Sept. 13, 1783.

<sup>51</sup> On September 26 Washington wrote to the President of Congress acknowledging the resolves commending General Howe and the troops under him. This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

## TO MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Rocky Hill, September 28, 1783.

Dear Sir: Supposing the necessary number of Troops to be kept up during the Winter it will be necessary to make some provision to supply their wants of Cloathing That this may not be delayed I am to request you to call for returns of such Articles as will [be]<sup>82</sup> absolutely necessary and to forward me a general return thereof so soon as possible. I am etc.

P. S. Your's of the 24th. is received.<sup>83</sup>

[MS. H. S.]

## TO MAJOR RICHARD PLATT

Rocky Hill, September 28, 1783.

Sir: Your Letter of the 21 of this Month with its inclosure reached me a few days since.

No application has been made to me on the subject of your Memorial to Congress, nor had I any knowledge of it until I received your Letter; and should I be referred to on the subject, I must candidly inform you I cannot give the measure the support you wish.

Except on very extraordinary occasions, where it has been the custom of all Nations to grant rewards of that nature, I have ever been opposed to partial promotions; every good Officer has an equal claim to my attention, nor could I ever lend my influence in favor of one individual to the prejudice of others. On this principle I have always acted, and have constantly refused every application of the kind which has been made to me. how Captains Sargent and North obtained their promotion, or that they have obtained it, I am wholly ignorant having

<sup>82</sup> Inadvertently omitted.<sup>83</sup> In the writing of Benjamin Walker. The P. S. is in the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress, and does not appear in the letter sent.

never heard a word on the Subject, otherwise than from common report.

A general promotion of one grade by brevet to all Officers whose present commissions bear date prior to the 1 January 1777 has been recommended, and is now before Congress; if this takes place, as I am inclined to think it will, the object of these partial applications will be answered without hurting the feelings of any individual.<sup>54</sup>

\*To BRIGADIER GENERAL  
CHARLES ARMAND-TUFFIN

Rocky Hill, October 1, 1783.

Sir: I have been honored with your favor of Yesterday. As you think the Petition of the Officers (dated the 16th. of June for Lands within a certain district therein described Northwest of the Ohio) has a different tendency to that which you propose for your Legion; as your views, my ideas, and the Sentiments. of Congress may all differ. and moreover as it would give me great pain to think that a previous declaration of my opinion restrained any application of yours which might ultimately have met the approbation of Congress, at a time when the Settlement of the Western Country is likely to become the subject of serious discussion My advice to you is, to offer your proposal without delay to the consideration of Congress; they will, I doubt not, be handed to the Committee to whom all these matters are referred; and consequently will have all the attention given to them that the nature of the case merits. this, in my opinion, will be the most regular, the best, and speediest mode for you to obtain such a decision as will be final although it should not be altogether satisfactory. I am &c.

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<sup>54</sup>The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.



TO DU BOIS DE L'AMOLIGNIÈRE<sup>55</sup>

Rocky Hill, State of New Jersey,

October 1, 1783.

Sir: I have had the honor to receive your Letter of the 27 July<sup>56</sup> and the Discourse which accompanied it and I beg you Sir to accept my thanks as well for this mark of your attention as for the pleasure I have received from the perusal of your performance.

The interest you take in the future happiness of this Republic, claims the gratitude of every American, and I am persuaded that all, to whom your discourse shall be communicated, will join me in that esteem with which, I have the honor, etc.<sup>57</sup>

TO MONSIEUR GUENIOT<sup>58</sup>

Rocky Hill, State of New Jersey,

October 1, 1783.

Sir: A few days since I had the honor to receive your Letter of the 19th April last, with the Ode which accompanied it.<sup>59</sup>

The glorious Acts of Louis XVI is a theme so agreeable to every true American, that you will easily conceive the pleasure I received from the perusal of your elegant little Ode on that subject.

<sup>55</sup> Councillor of the Superior Council at Port au Prince, Haiti.

<sup>56</sup> Not now found in the *Washington Papers*, but a translation of it by Walker, under date of July 27, 1783, is indorsed by him, "With a book," presumably the "Discourse," copies of which seem to have been also sent to John Hancock and Charles Thomson.

On October 1 Washington wrote to Sivetau de Lepinay in Philadelphia a brief note of thanks for forwarding L'Amolignière's letter and Discourse. This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>57</sup> The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

<sup>58</sup> A physician in Avalon in Burgundy, France.

<sup>59</sup> Not now found in the *Washington Papers*, but a translation in the writing of Walker is filed with the ode under date of Apr. 19, 1783. The ode consists of 4 lines only.

I beg you, Sir, to be persuaded, how sensible I am of this mark of your regard, and of the esteem with which I have the honor, etc.<sup>60</sup>

### TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Rocky Hill, October 2, 1783.

Sir: I do myself the honor to transmit your Excellency Copy of a Letter <sup>61</sup> I have received from Colonel Kosciuszko on the subject of his promotion.

The general promotion now before Congress, should it take place, would have included him; but this does not seem to be his wish; as a Foreigner I suppose a particular promotion would be more consonant to his views and interest, and from my knowledge of his Merit and services, and the concurrent testimony of all who know him I cannot but recommend him as deserving the favor of Congress.<sup>62</sup> With great respect etc.<sup>63</sup>

### TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL RICHARD VARICK

Rocky Hill, October 2, 1783.

Dear Sir: Enclosed are my private letters for registering. As fast as they are entered, return them to me by the weekly mail, because references to them are frequently necessary; do the same thing with the public Letters.

As the Letters which are handed to you now, contain sentiments upon undecided points; it is more than ever necessary

<sup>60</sup> The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

<sup>61</sup> A copy of the letter from Kosciuszko of September 26 is filed with Washington's letter in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*. The original is in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>62</sup> On October 3 Washington wrote briefly to Kosciuszko that his letter of September 26 had been forwarded to Congress. "I heartily wish your application to meet with success." This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>63</sup> In the writing of Benjamin Walker. The letter was read in Congress on October 4 and referred to Jacob Read, Richard Peters, and James Duane.

that there should be the strictest guard over them, and the most perfect silence with respect to their contents. Mr. Taylors<sup>44</sup> prudence will, I persuade myself, induce him to pay particular attention to both. I am, etc.<sup>45</sup>

### TO CLEMENT BIDDLE

Rocky Hill, October 2, 1783.

Dear Sir: On the 20th. of last month, I wrote you a few lines, and sent therewith Eight hundred Dollars in Bank-Notes, which (tho' I have heard nothing from you since), I hope got safe to hand.

Such articles of the Linen kind as yet remain unpurchased (of the Invoice transmitted to you the 15th. of May last) I wish to have postponed 'till Mrs. Washington comes to Philada., which will be in a few days, that she may please herself in the quality. The Nails and paint may go by the Vessel which you say is bound to Alexandria: as the other things also may, if they are *already* bot. or can be bought in time after she gets there.

Altho' I am fully persuaded you endeavoured to act for the best, in the purchase of the Blankets and Ticklenburg (the cost of which you have rendered me) yet I cannot help observing that the prices greatly exceeded what I was led to believe they could be had for; and what I have been told by some Gentn. since, they themselves actually bought for at the Vendue's; where very good Osnabs. sold from 9d. to 11d. The largest and best kind of (striped) Dutch Blankets that I ever imported, never cost me more than seventy or seventy five shillings the piece (of I think 16 Blankets). 10/9 then, by the quantity of 200, would have been esteemed, I conceive, a handsome profit,

<sup>44</sup> George Taylor, jr.

<sup>45</sup> From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

in the most flourishing period of the trade. It was, I confess, at the Vendue's that I expected the purchases would have been made for me; for I never supposed, nor was it to be expected, that such men as Abel James would sell goods at low prices; the needy trader I knew would be driven to it from necessity, and Linens we have been told have sold amazingly low: indeed I myself have seen, in shirts belonging to Gentn. of Congress some at 4/. Penna. Cy., equal to what I have formerly imported at 3/6. and 4/. Sterlg. per yard. Mrs. Washington joins me in best wishes for Mrs. Biddle and yourself, and I am, etc.\*\*

\*TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL TENCH TILGHMAN

Rocky Hill, October 2, 1783.

Dear Sir: The Chevr. de la Luzerne, hearing me the other day enquire after Claret, informed me that he had a quantity of it at Baltimore, more than he wanted, and would spare me some. I am, in consequence, to have two or three Hhds of this Stock.

I requested him to direct his Corrispondent at that place, to commit them to your care, on the Supposition that you are a Resident of Baltimore, and I have to beg your attention to them accordingly.

As you know how liable Liquors are to be Adulterated by common Boatmen, or common Waggoners; and that it is the *quality only* which constitutes the Value, I perswade myself you will put this Wine into the charge of some person who will be responsible for the safe transportation of it. The Chevr. assures me that it is old Wine, and of the first quality. I hope to drink a Glass of it with you at Mount Vernon 'ere long; and

\*\*From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

for this, and other reasons, wish it may precede my arrival, at that place. accompany it, if you please, with a line to Mr Lund Washington.

Why have you been so niggardly in communicating your change of condition to us? or to the World? By dint of enquiries we have heard of your Marriage; but have scarcely got a *confirmation* of it yet. On the presumption however that it is so, I offer you my warmest congratulations and best wishes for the enjoyment of many happy years; in both which Mrs. Washington joins me very cordially.

She is on the eve of setting out for Virginia before the Weather and roads get bad. I shall follow as soon as the Definitive Treaty arrives, or New York is Evacuated by our Newly acquired friends. On the first there is little said. Of the latter a great deal, but scarcely the same thing by any two who come from there. The general opinion however is, that they will be gone by the last of this Month.

Present Mrs. Washington's and my Compliments to your Lady and Mrs. Carroll, and be assured that I am, etc.<sup>67</sup>

### TO THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE

Rocky Hill, October 3, 1783.

Dear Sir: When the Men inlisted for the War were sent home on furlough, not being able to do without a small detachment of Horse, a Sergeant, Corporal and Eight of Van Heers Dragoons were prevailed on to remain a Month or two longer. They have been extremely faithful and serviceable; but their detention being much longer than was expected, and not receiving any immediate recompense for their voluntary service

<sup>67</sup> From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by George A. Ball, of Muncie, Ind.

they begin to be uneasy; and without something is done for them will certainly quit me. As I cannot possibly do without them whilst I remain here, I could wish some little pay might be advanced them, say a couple of Months; the sum would be trifling, and would induce them to stay as long as they shall be wanted. What gives them an additional claim to this is that they laid out the greatest part of their three Months pay in Cloathing which they are now expending in public Service.<sup>68</sup>

### TO JOHN MOYLAN

Rocky Hill, October 5, 1783.

Sir: In consequence of directions I have received from Congress, I am to desire you to make the necessary provision of Cloathing for 2500 Men without delay.

I expect that Mr. Morris will receive the direction of Congress to retain as much of the public Cloathing now selling as will answer for part of the above provision. I am etc.<sup>68</sup>

### TO THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE

(Private)

Rocky Hill, October 6, 1783.

Dear Sir: The account we have frequently received (from one body and another) of Mrs. Morris and your coming to Princeton, kept Mrs. Washington and myself in continual expectation of that pleasure.

A desire of having the Paymaster General present while you were here, induced his stay at this place several days longer than he intended; and when the business at the army would no

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<sup>68</sup>The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

longer allow his absence from it, He did as he informed me on the 26th. of last month at my request, communicate a state of the Ballances which were due to, and from me, with the acct. of my immediate, pressing want; to you and his assistant in Phila. Having heard nothing from either of you since, as Mrs. Washington is now on her way home, and as it would be very convenient for me, that she should procure at Philadelphia some Articles of Furniture, and stores for my House in Virginia, if they are to be met with) I am in a manner compelled, very contrary to my inclination to ask if she could be furnished with about 1500 Dollars for these purposes. If this sum is supplied her I will give a warrant upon the pay Chest or Account for it in any manner you shall direct, agreeably to the Tenor of your letter of the 20th. of August last.

Mrs. Washington accepts the kind invitation which you and Mrs. Morris have been Obliging enough to give during the few days she may stay in Philadelphia and I can only repeat, with the usual sincerity, the pleasure I should feel in having you and Mrs. Morris if she inclines to honor Princeton with her Company, and can put up with Batchelors fare with me under my Roof. My best respects are offered to her. With great truth I remain, etc.

P. S. I had written the foregoing letter, before your favor of the 2d. came to hand, as I do not know what it is you allude to I am at a loss what answer to make to your question. and therefore would say, If it is claret that has been provided for me on Public acct. it ought by all means to come to me at this place; where, more than probably, my residence will be while I continue in the Service of the Public, if on the other hand it is any of those wines which have been sent to me from France by some of my Acquaintances there and of which I never could

get any distinct acct. I would pray you to let it remain in your Cellar till you may be so good as to give me information on this head.<sup>69</sup>

### TO COLONEL TIMOTHY PICKERING

Rocky Hill, October 8, 1783.

Sir: When I last wrote you on the subject of providing for the Garrison of West Point I mentioned 500 Men as the number which Congress would probably think proper to keep in that Garrison during the winter. I have been long waiting their determination on this subject but so far from coming to any such decision, [the members with whom I have conversed] seem unwilling to lessen the force now existing until the British shall finally evacuate the Country; this being the case, and the Season being now so far advanced, it would be imprudent to delay any necessary preparations, I have therefore to desire that the provision for the Winter may extend to the number of 2500 Or 3000 men, [or at least that it may be in train].<sup>70</sup>

### TO MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Rocky Hill, October 8, 1783.

Dr. Sir: Count Wengiersky, a Polish Gentleman, travelling the Continent for his amusement, will have the pleasure to deliver you this; he comes recommended to me by the Marquis de la Fayette and the Minister of France, and as he proposes visiting West Point, I take the liberty to request your Civilities to

<sup>69</sup> From the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

On October 7 Washington wrote a brief note to the President of Congress, transmitting a copy of Sir Guy Carleton's letter to him, dated Oct. 3, 1783, which is in the *Washington Papers*. Washington's letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*.

<sup>70</sup> The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.



him during his Stay there. Mr. Vernon, an English Gentleman, lately from Europe travels with the Count, and will I know equally participate in your attention. I am, etc.<sup>71</sup>

\*To COLONEL TIMOTHY PICKERING

Rocky Hill, October 8, 1783.

Sir: The dayly expectation of one of the two events wch. I designed should put an end to my Public Services, has nothing more to fix it to a period now than there was sevl. Months ago; and, as to carry my Papers home by Land (for I never could think of trusting them on the Ocean or Bay) was the only inducement for requiring Waggons to be retained for this Service; I have, to avoid further expence on this Acct. (as I think no great inconvenience can result from the seperation from my Papers at this time) come to a resolution of sending them off the lattr. end of this, or the beging. of next Week for my House in Virga; being more particularly induced thereto by the *Present low* condition of Waggon Horses, and the approaching season for Bad Roads.

I mention this circumstance to you, that you may consider whether it will not be better to dispose of both Waggons and Horses at Alexandria, after the Service is performed, than to March them back again; The latter will not only add considerably to the expence of the Trip, but will be a means of reducing the Horses (already unfit for the journey) so low as to be altogether unsaleable.

'Till the Waggons are loaded, I cannot say how many it may take to transport my Papers; but as they are very bulky it is

<sup>71</sup>The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker. Practically the same letter was also sent to Philip Schuyler, the draft of which is in the *Washington Papers*.

probable that not less than 4 or 5 will do. In all, there are Six at this place. I wish to know your determination upon the expediency of selling the Waggon and Teams which go on; and what is to be done with the remainder (if any there should be) when I leave this place. I am etc.

TO MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Rocky Hill, October 8, 1783.

Dear Sir: Captain Shaw<sup>72</sup> has handed me your Letter of the 2d. instant.

I have been impatiently waiting the determination of Congress to ascertain what number of Troops are actually to be kept up in the Garrison of West-point during the Winter but I do not see any probability of their coming to a speedy decision; on the contrary, the Members with whom I have conversed seem unwilling to lessen the present force whilst the British remain in the Country and when they will quit it is a matter of uncertainty. I shall therefore by this conveyance send orders to Colonel Pickering to extend his provision for the Winter to the number of 2500 or three thousand Men. Captain Shaw is gone to Philadelphia, by his return I shall reply to your other Letters. With great regard etc.<sup>73</sup> [MS. H. S.]

TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL  
FREDERICK HALDIMAND

Rocky Hill, New Jersey, October 8, 1783.

Sir: I do myself the honor to transmit to your Excellency, a letter from Mr. John Campbell, together with a Schedule of

<sup>72</sup>Capt. Samuel Shaw.

<sup>73</sup>In the writing of Benjamin Walker.

sundry papers which he alledges were taken from him when made Prisoner and delivered to Major De Peyster<sup>74</sup> at Detroit, and were never returned.

I can have no doubt, but that your Excellency will on receipt of this Letter, cause every measure to be taken which may be most likely to restore to Mr. Campbell the property thus taken, and which, tho so important to him, cannot benefit any other individual. I have the honor etc.<sup>75</sup>

TO GOVERNOR JOHN HANCOCK

Rocky Hill, October 8, 1783.

Sir: I do myself the honor to transmit to your Excellency the Copy of a Letter I have just received from Sir Guy Carlton, informing me of his having given orders for the evacuation of Penobscott.

Congress having come to no detemination with respect to a Peace Establishment, and the few Troops remaining in service being on a precarious footing, liable to be discharged at every moment, are reasons, which with the great distance of Penobscott [and sudden notice of the B Comr in Chief] totally prevent my sending a Detachment to receive possession of that Garrison from the British; and therefore I thought it my duty to give your Excellency this information that the Government of Massachusetts may take such measures as they may think proper. With great esteem etc.<sup>76</sup>

<sup>74</sup>Arent Schuyler de Peyster, of the Eighth Foot, British Army. He ranked as a lieutenant colonel in America.

<sup>75</sup>In the writing of Benjamin Walker. From a photostat of the original in the British Museum *Addl. Mss.* 21,835, fol. 200.

On October 8 Washington wrote briefly to Schuyler, requesting him to forward this letter to Haldimand. This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>76</sup>In the writing of Benjamin Walker. The words in brackets in the draft are in the writing of Washington. His spelling and abbreviation are followed. At the bottom of this letter is entered the commitment to the committee appointed upon the Governor's message, and the concurrence of the House of Representatives of Massachusetts, Oct. 23, 1783.

## TO COLONEL TIMOTHY PICKERING

Rocky Hill, October 10, 1783.

Sir: I inclose you the Copy of a resolve of Congress passed the 26 Sept<sup>r</sup> but which did not come to my hands untill yesterday.

Should there be in your Department any more Officers than are necessary for the Troops remaining in service I have to request you to grant them furloughs in compliance with the resolve. I am etc.<sup>77</sup>

[N. Y. P. L.]

TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL  
WILLIAM STEPHENS SMITH

Rocky Hill, October 10, 1783.

Sir: I have to reply to your several Letters of the 20 Sep and 3 and 6th. of this Month.

The Glass was safely delivered me by Cap Pinkney I am obliged to you for your information respecting the oppression of some of the Inhabitants of Long Island by the British; but as the offence is against the Subjects of the State, it belongs more properly to the Executive Authority to take cognizance of it, and I wish you in all matters of this kind to give information to the Governor, that they may take such notice of them as they think proper.

You mention your having forwarded to me the beginning of September several Letters from Europe; I [cannot] recollect to have reced [any] Letters from you whilst at Newburg but am confident that since my arrival at this place (about the 20 Augt) none such have come to my hands; the only Letters of

<sup>77</sup>In the writing of Benjamin Walker.

yours in the Month of Septr. are one of the 1st. one of the 5th. and the one mentioned above of the 20th neither of which enclosed the Letters you mention. I therefore wish you to recollect to whose care you committed them, that the necessary enquiries may be made. I am, etc.<sup>78</sup>

### TO FRANCIS MOORE

Princeton, October 11, 1783.

Sir: Your favor of the 25th. ulto. came to hand by Thursdays post. It meets my thanks for the obliging expressions with which the information, respecting the deceased Mrs. Savage, is conveyed.<sup>79</sup>

I think you judged very properly in not sending the original Will of that Lady; whose Death, or rather the circumstances attending it, deserve much commiseration: she certainly merited very different treatment from her husband, Dr. Savage.

If the Will is not lengthy, you would do me a favor, by transmitting me a copy of it. The original you will be so good as to retain in your hands, or deliver it to Mrs. Washington as she passes thro' Baltimore on her way to my house in Virginia. I am, etc.

### TO MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE

Princeton, October 12, 1783.

My Dear Marqs: While I thought there was a probability of my letters finding you in France, I wrote frequently to you there; and very long epistles too. My last was dated the 15th. of June; between that, and the letter which must have been

<sup>78</sup>The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

<sup>79</sup>Mrs. Savage's first husband was the Rev. Charles Green.

handed to you by the Chevr. Chartellux, I addressed three others, under the following dates, March 23d., April 5th., and May 10th. Subsequent to these I have been honored with your favor of the 19th. of April dated at the seat of the Marqs. de Castries; and of three more in June,<sup>80</sup> recommendatory of Doct: Bancroft,<sup>81</sup> Monsr. de Baune, and Count Wengierski.<sup>82</sup>

I should not have remained silent so long, had I not been in daily expectation of seeing you in this Country. The event My Dr. Marqs. which seems (by your last letters) to have been in some degree a let to this pleasure, will not I apprehend, ever take place. The late Secretary of foreign affairs (for at present there is none) with whom I have conversed confidentially on the subject of your wishes, as they are expressed in your favor of the 4th. of February, thinks, high as you really stand in the good opinion of Congress, and however great their inclination is to comply with your wishes, in almost every thing; yet, in *such a case as that*, it would be impracticable to obtain it, and for that reason impolitic to attempt it. Lest *he* should not have communicated these sentiments to you, motives of friendship have prompted *me* to do it without reserve. To add after giving this information, how much it is my wish to see you in a country which owes so much to your important services in the Cabinet, and in the Field; and how happy you would make your friends at Mount Vernon by considering that place as your home, would only be to repeat, what I persuade myself, you have long ago been convinced of: Nevertheless, I cannot forbear urging it.

<sup>80</sup> Not now found in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>81</sup> Dr. Edward Bancroft. He was secretary to the American Commissioners in France, and a spy in the employ of the British.

<sup>82</sup> On October 18 Washington briefly acknowledged Luzerne's letter of October 7, respecting Count Wengierski. The original of this letter is in the *Paris Archives, Aff. Etrang., Mems. et Docs., E. U.*, vol. 6.

With anxious expectations we have been upon the lookout, day after day these four months for the arrival of the Definitive Treaty of peace. In equal expectation have we been the last two of the evacuation of New York by the British forces. On the happening of either of these events, I have placed my retirement to the walks of private life, and look forward to the epoch with heart felt satisfaction: 'Till I get home and have time to look into the situation of my private concerns, which I already know are in a deranged state, and very much impaired; I can form no plan for my future.

I have it in contemplation, however to make a tour thro' all the Eastern States, thence into Canada; thence up the St. Lawrence, and thro' the Lakes to Detroit; thence to lake Michigan by Land or water; thence thro' the Western Country by the river Illinois, to the river Mississippi, and down the same to New Orleans; thence into Georgia by the way of Pensacola; and thence thro' the two Carolina's home. A great tour this, you will say, probably it may take place no where but in imagination, tho' it is my *wish* to begin it in the latter end of April of next year; if it should be realized, there would be nothing wanting to make it perfectly agreeable, but your Company.

Congress have fixed upon the falls of Delaware for the residence of the sovereign power of these United States, and 'till a proper establishment can be made at it, and accomodations provided, they will hold their Sessions at (no place yet agreed on). By their desire I shall remain with them, 'till one of the events already mentioned takes place, and then shall bid a final adieu to public life.

I hope the Russians and Turks will accommodate their differences. I wish it from motives of universal benevolence, which I should be glad to see as extensive as the great Globe

itself. And I wish it also, because the flames of War once kindled may draw in one power after another, 'till the regions most remote may feel the effects of it.

The Dutch Minister,<sup>83</sup> after a passage of near 16 weeks, is just arrived at Philadelphia. Many foreigners are already come over to that and other places, some in the Mercantile line, some to make a tour of the Continent, and some (employed) no doubt to spy out the Land, and to make observations upon the temper and disposition of its Inhabitants, their Laws, policy &ca.

No peace establishment is yet agreed on by Congress, but the opposition which was given by the Eastern States, to the half pay, or commutation of it for the officers, is beginning to subside: it is to be hoped that everything will soon go right, and that the people will get into a proper tone of thinking again.

Mrs. Washington left me a few days ago for Virginia (before the weather and roads shou'd get bad). Otherwise I am sure she would unite most cordially with me in respectful compliments to Madame la Fayette, and congratulations on the passage of my namesake, thro' the small-pox. With every wish for your and her happiness, and with the most sincere friendship I am, etc.<sup>84</sup>

#### TO CHEVALIER DE CHASTELLUX

Princeton, October 12, 1783.

My dear Chevalier: I have not had the honor of a line from you, since the 4th. of March last, but I will ascribe my disappointment to any cause, rather than to a decay of your friendship.

<sup>83</sup>Peter John Van Berckel.

<sup>84</sup>From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.



Having the appearance, and indeed the enjoyment of peace, without a final declaration of it; I, who am only waiting for the ceremonials, or 'till the British forces shall have taken leave of New York, am placed in an awkward and disagreeable situation, it being my anxious desire to quit the walks of public life, and under the shadow of my own vine, and my own Fig-tree, to seek those enjoyments, and that relaxation, which a mind that has been constantly upon the stretch for more than eight years, stands so much in need of.

I have fixed this epoch to the arrival of the Definitive Treaty, or to the evacuation of my country by our newly acquired friends. In the mean while at the request of Congress, I spend my time with them at this place, where they came in consequence of the riots at Philadelphia, of which you have doubtless (for it is not a very recent transaction) been fully apprised. They have lately determined to make choice of some convenient spot near the Falls of the Delaware for the permanent residence of the sovereign power of these United States; but where they will hold their Sessions 'till they can be properly established at that place, is yet undecided.

I have lately made a tour through the Lakes George and Champlain as far as Crown point; then returning to Schenectady, I proceeded up the Mohawk river to Fort Schuyler (formerly Fort Stanwix), and crossed over to the Wood Creek which empties into the Oneida Lake, and affords the water communication with Ontario. I then traversed the country to the head of the Eastern Branch of the Susquehanna and viewed the Lake Otsego, and the portage between that lake and the Mohawk river at Canajohario. Prompted by these actual observations, I could not help taking a more contemplative and extensive view of the vast inland navigation of these United

States, from maps and the information of others; and could not but be struck with the immense diffusion and importance of it; and with the goodness of that Providence which has dealt her favors to us with so profuse a hand. Would to God we may have wisdom enough to improve them. I shall not rest contented 'till I have explored the Western Country, and traversed those lines (or great part of them) which have given bounds to a New Empire. But when it may, if it ever shall happen, I dare not say, as my first attention must be given to the deranged situation of my private concerns which are not a little injured by almost nine years absence and total disregard of them. With every wish for your health and happiness, and with the most sincere and affectionate regard, I am etc.<sup>88</sup>

#### TO COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU

Princeton, October 15, 1783.

With what words my Dear Count shall I express to you the sensibility of a heart which you have warmed by the flattering sentiments that are conveyed in your Letters of the 14th. of April and 13th. of July? Your Nation is entitled to all my gratitude. Your sovereign has a claim to my highest admiration, respect and veneration; and those Individuals of it who have been my companions in war, to my friendship and Love. Can it be surprizing then, that I should possess an ardent desire to visit your Country? But, as I observed to you in my Letter of the 20th. of May, it is not yet clear to me, that I shall ever have it in my power to accomplish my wishes. My private concerns have been very much deranged by an absence of more than eight years, and require particular attention to put them in order.

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<sup>88</sup> From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

Congress, from causes which you have doubtless heard spoken of, and more than probably have seen published; are *now* sitting at this place. They have fixed upon the Falls of Delaware (at or near Trenton) for their permanent residence, and I suppose will prepare as soon as possible, to establish themselves at it. I have, at their request, been with them near two months, and shall remain with them 'till the Definitive Treaty arrives, or 'till New York is evacuated by the British forces, when I shall bid a final adieu to public Life, and in the shade of retirement look back on our past toils, with grateful admiration of that beneficent Providence which has raised up so many instruments, to accomplish so great a revolution as the one you have had a share in bringing about.

When either of these events will certainly happen, it is difficult for *me* to determine; the first, we have been in anxious expectation of for four or five months; and of the latter not less than two. The other day, Genl. Carleton sent me word, that in November he should evacuate the post of New York; and that it might happen by the 20th. of the month: but we have already experienced so many disappointments, that I shall scarcely believe they *are going*, untill they are *without Sandy hook*.

In the course of the last summer I made a tour, thro' Lakes George and Champlain, as far as Crown point; thence I went up the Mohawk river to Fort Stanwix, and over to the Wood-Creek and on my return viewed the Otsego-lake, which is the head of the Eastern branch of the Susquehanna. We have nothing new in this quarter, except the arrival of Mr. Van Berkel the Dutch Minister and a number of foreigners from different parts of the Globe, some to Trade, some for Amusement, and some I presume to spy out the Land. It is unnecessary, I am sure, to repeat to you the assurances of esteem, respect etc.<sup>86</sup>

<sup>86</sup> From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

TO MAJOR GENERAL ALEXANDER McDOUGALL

[Rocky Hill, October 15, 1783.]

Dr Sir: By the last Post I was favored with your Letter of the 5 Instant; and I take the earliest Opportunity to acquaint you of my compliance with your request.

Tho' I have ever been averse to Officers going into New York on every slight pretext, I was always ready to grant my permission when real business required their presence. I am, etc.\*

\*TO COMTE DE NOAILLES

Princeton, October 15, 1783.

Dear Sir: Within these few days, I have had the honor to receive your favor of the 25th. of April from Paris. My heart will do me greater justice than my Pen, when I attempt the expression of my sensibility for your polite congratulation on the happy termination of the War; and for the favorable sentiments you have expressed of my instrumentality in effecting the Revolution.

It is to the magnanimous Sentiments of your Prince, the generous aids of your Nation, and to the gallantry of yourself, and the rest of her Sons, that we are to ascribe, in a very great degree, the happy revolution which is to fill an important page in

\*The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

Under date of October 22, in the *Washington Papers*, is one of the printed reports of the committee of Congress on Indian Affairs and western lands (James Duane, Richard Peters, Daniel Carroll, Benjamin Hawkins, and Arthur Lee), who, on October 15, submitted these "additional instructions and propositions" to their former report. Opposite the third paragraph of these additional instructions Washington has written: "It appears to me that all Surveys not made by proper Authority; more especially those which are intended for the purpose of speculation should be declared Null and void; and Monopolies inhibited under the severest pains and penalties. How far it may be consistent with good policy to remand *actual* Settlers I will not take upon me to determine, but this I am clear in, that they ought to be restrained to a certain quantity of Land pr. poll to avoid the evils just enumerated."

history. As you have acted a conspicuous part on the American theatre, let it be an inducement to you, to visit the rising Empire which your own endeavors have assisted to bring into existence. And let me in that case, express to you how happy I should be to see you at my Cottage in Virginia, there to repeat to you the assurances which I now give, of the sincere esteem, regard etc.<sup>88</sup>

### TO DUC DE LAUZUN

Princeton, October 15, 1783.

My Dr. Duke: With grateful affection I received the honor of your Letter of the 11th. of June from Brest; and rejoiced as much at the ease and quickness of your passage, as at the favorable reception you have met with from your Prince.

Be pleased, on these occasions, to accept my warmest congratulations and best wishes.

It gave me pleasure to find, that you held in remembrance the promise you made of visiting me in Virginia. I will put a Seal to the ratification of it, and place it among my choicest deposits 'till you come to redeem it.

New York is not yet evacuated, nor is the Definitive Treaty arrived. Upon the happening of either of these events, I shall bid a final adieu to a military life, and in the shade of retirement ruminate on the marvellous scenes that are passed; and in contemplating the wonderful workings of that Providence which has raised up so many instruments, and such powerful Engines (among which your nation stands first) to overthrow the British pride and power, by so great a revolution.

Congress are sitting at this place, the cause of which you have doubtless heard. The Falls of Delaware (at or near Trenton)

<sup>88</sup> From a photograph of the original kindly furnished by the late Thomas F. Madigan, of New York City.

is made choice of for their permanent residence. At their desire, I have been with them, near two months and shall remain with them, 'till one of the events before mentioned shall give me a dismissal. In the course of last summer I visited lakes George and Champlain (as far as Crown point), the Mohawk river to Fort Stanwix, thence over to Wood Creek; and on my return traversed the country to the Susquehanna and viewed the Otsego Lake, which is at the head of it. I shall not be satisfied 'till I do the same by the exterior boundary of the United States, but when, if ever I shall be able to accomplish these wishes, is a matter of too much uncertainty for me to decide upon, at this moment. With great consideration, etc.<sup>89</sup>

#### TO MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Rocky Hill, October 16, 1783.

Dear Sir: Major Shaw not returning so soon as I imagined, and the subject of your Letter of the 28 September not admitting much delay I take the opportunity of the Post to reply to it.

On referring to the Institution of the Society of the Cincinnati I find that the Chevr. de la Luzerne, the Sieur Gerard, the Counts D'Estaing, de Barras and De Grasse, the Chevalier Des Touches, and the Count de Rochambeau, with the Generals and Colonels of his Army, are to be presented with the Order of the society.

As it is however proper that these Gentlemen should be made acquainted with the nature of the Society, I propose to write to each of those above named (except the Chevalier de la luzerne who was written to in the first instance) and inclose them a Copy of the Institution, at the same time informing them, that Major L'Enfant is charged with the execution

<sup>89</sup> From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

of the Order, and has directions to furnish them from the first that are finished.

I propose also to inclose a Copy to the Marquis de la Fayette, and request him to take the signature of such of the French Officers in our service, who are entitled and wish to become Members, to receive their Months pay and deliver them the Orders on their paying for them.

These Letters Major L'Enfant will carry with him, and deliver to each of those Gentlemen, and must be directed to deliver them the Orders so soon as they are compleat, delivering them to Count Rochambeau for the Officers of his Command, who will receive them of him, and to the Marquis de la Fayette sufficient for the French Officers in our Service, who become Members.

I inclose to you the permission for Major L'Enfant to go to France, and a Certificate of his being a Member of the Society; however before he setts off, I think it should be well explained, and understood by him, that the Voyage is not undertaken for the Society, but that their business is committed to him, only in consequence of his going there on his own affairs and consequently he is not to be paid any Expence of the Voyage or his Stay, but only such Extra Expences as might be incurred by any person residing in France, who transacted the same business for the Society; these are my sentiments, if they accord with yours and the rest of the Gentlemen, and he accepts these conditions, I think the sooner he sets out, the better.<sup>90</sup>

I will be obliged to you to make out his instructions comprehending the objects I have mentioned above, and such other as you may think necessary, and to make the necessary

<sup>90</sup>The original of the permission, signed by Washington, to Major L'Enfant "to be absent from his Corps untill the first day of May next, for the purpose of going to France on his own private affairs," is dated Oct. 16, 1783. It is in the Massachusetts Historical Society.

arrangement with him respecting the funds to be furnished. I am told subscriptions have been paid in by those who wish to have Orders. I propose taking seven, for which the money is ready at any time, and it may not be amiss in this place to inform you, that it has always been my intention to present the Society with 500 Dollars; if any part of this is necessary, and can with propriety be applied in this business I have no objection.

Majr. L'Enfant might also be directed to receive from the Marquis the Months pay of the French Officers in our service who become Members.

I must request you to procure Six or seven Copies of the Institution to be made out neatly, to transmit to the Gentlemen above mentioned; Major L'Enfant can bring them on with him.

I intend immediately to write to the Commanding Officer of each of the State Lines who have not yet made known their intentions respecting the formation of their State Societies, pressing them to a determination, for as I wish to adapt the place of the general Meeting to the convenience of all until I know which of the States form the Society I cannot fix it. With great regard <sup>91</sup>

#### TO COLONEL MARINUS WILLETT

Rocky Hill, October 16, 1783.

Sir: The last post brought me your Letter of the 3d of this Month.

Whether the whole, or what part of the five Companies of State Troops, are to be retained in service during the Winter, being a matter wholly dependent on the determination of Congress [in their arrangement for Peace], it is impossible to give any directions respecting them. I would wish you to inform

<sup>91</sup> In the writing of Benjamin Walker. From the original in the *Papers of the Society of the Cincinnati*, in the Library of Congress.



me immediately what steps have been taken in consequence of the Orders I gave when I last saw you; by the time I receive this information, 'tis probable that Congress will have come to some determination which will enable me to give the necessary directions on the Subject.<sup>92</sup>

#### TO BRIGADIER GENERAL JEDIDIAH HUNTINGTON

Rocky Hill, October 16, 1783.

Dr. Sir: Your Letter of the 3d. Instant which I received a few days since, informed me of your intention to retire from the Army.

Permit me, my dear Sir, to take this opportunity of expressing to you my obligations for the support and assistance I have in the course of the War received from your abilities, [and attachment to me.] As during our service together you have always possessed my esteem [and affection] so you will now carry with you every possible wish I can form for your future happiness. I beg you to present my compliments to Mrs. Huntington, and to believe me with great regard, etc.<sup>93</sup>

#### TO MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Rocky Hill, October 16, 1783.

Dear Sir: Since I had the pleasure to write to you on the 8th. Instant, I have received your Letter of that date.

I am clearly of opinion that the services of those Men whose times expire so early in the spring, are not adequate to their Clothing and Maintenance during the Winter, but, as I said in my last letter, such seems the disposition of the Members of Congress with whom I have conversed on the subject, that they

<sup>92</sup>The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

are not willing to part with any of the Troops whilst the British remain in New York; all therefore that [can be done]<sup>88</sup> at present is what you [propose],<sup>89</sup> of getting what service we can from some of those whose times first expire and then discharging them; whilst this is doing Congress may possibly come to some determination on the matter.

I now inclose you sundry resolves of Congress, which you will please to have published to the Army, tho some of these have been passed sometime, it was but within a very few days that I was officially acquainted with them. I am etc.<sup>90</sup> [MS.H.S.]

### TO ROBERT LEWIS & SONS

Rocky Hill, October 16, 1783.

Gentn: Since I was favored with your letter of Sept., I have received the enclosed from Mr. Lund Washington (who has charge of my business in Virginia) to Colo. Biddle; it was accompanied with the following paragraph to me: "William Roberts would not enter into such articles as I wanted him to sign, altho' he has for several years (since he lived here) signed much the same; he says he is convinced from what is past, he never shall quit drinking, notwithstanding his endeavours to do it; and the restrictions he is laid under in these articles are such that it is not in his nature to keep them; and he has no right (he acknowledges) to be indulged any longer in the manner he has been; therefore he will rent a Mill, and work for himself, being determined never to hire himself again.

I wrote the enclosed to go by this post to Colo. Biddle, who has frequently desired me, if I had anything in which he could do for you, or myself, that I would freely command him. But I have thought, that you probably might have some other

<sup>88</sup> Mutilated.

<sup>89</sup> In the writing of Benjamin Walker.

acquaintance on whom you might choose to rely for the transaction of such a piece of business, in preference to him, therefore I send the letter under cover to you, that you may act as you shall think best in the matter".

As I think you are much better judges of the qualifications necessary to constitute a good Miller, and have it more in your power to procure one, than Colo. Biddle, I send the Letter which Mr. Washington had written to him, to you, and pray your assistance in this business.

The time being short, no delay can be admitted; I submit to you therefore, the propriety of advertising for a man, which will answer my purpose; the wages I will leave entirely to yourself; or, in other words, I would *give* the highest that are *given*, for such a Mill as mine is described to be; or I would even give *more*, to get a *good* and *skillful* man who understands, and will do his duty, without giving me any plague or trouble. There is no Miller in America I would exchange Roberts for, if he could be broke of his abominable drunken and quarrelsome frolicks; the opinion I entertain of his skill, and an unwillingness to part with him, have been the inducements to my keeping him fourteen years, when I ought not to have borne with him for the last seven of them.

Having now committed this business absolutely to your management, I shall confide in your endeavours to serve me, unless you forbid me to do so; and as letters sometimes indeed too often, miscarry, I shall thank you for a single line, informing me that this is got safe to your hands. I will make no apology for this trouble, but I will give you strong assurances of my disposition to make any return in the power of Gentn. Your, etc.

P. S. Any expence which may be incurr'd in this business, I will cheerfully pay.<sup>98</sup>

<sup>98</sup> From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

## TO ALEXANDER HAMILTON

Rocky Hill, October 18, 1783.

Dr. Sir: I am favored with your two Letters of the 30 September.

The Debate on Indian affairs which I believe is got through, and that on the Residence of Congress which is yet in agitation has entirely thrown aside for some time the consideration of the Peace Establishment, when it is Resumed I will take care that your application comes into View and shall be happy if any thing in my power may contribute to its success. I am, etc.<sup>98</sup>

## TO BARON STEUBEN

Rocky Hill, October 18, 1783.

Dear Sir: I am informed that there are at Philadelphia Six or Eight Officers, and about one Company of the Invalid Regiment; that some of the Officers, by the loss of Limbs and other incapacities, are rendered totally incapable of acquiring by their own exertions a support in life others are in a degree debilitated, whilst some are recovered from their Wounds and enjoy a good State of Health; the Men also must be in very different circumstances.

I wish you, with the assistance of such of the public Physicians as are in town, to have a critical Inspection of this Corps as soon as possible, that those of the Men who are fit objects and wish to avail themselves of it, may be permitted to take the benefit of the Act of Congress granting them a Pension; and those who are Strangers in the Country and are rendered incapable of supporting themselves may be removed to West point

<sup>98</sup>From the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress. Hamilton wished to retain his army rank in the peace establishment, without pay or command.

where they can be maintained at much less expence to the public than at Philadelphia, which Post can then be broken up.

Such Officers too, as do not wish to retire as the other Officers have done on furlough, may be removed to West Point where they may live much more to their ease and satisfaction. I am, etc.<sup>97</sup>

TO BRIGADIER GENERAL  
LOUIS LE BÈQUE DU PORTAIL

Rocky Hill, October 19, 1783.

Dr. Sir: Genl. Laumoy and Colo. Gouvion did me Justice in mentioning the regret I feel at your intention of leaving this Country; the personal attachment which naturally grows out of such a length of service together had I no other motive would occasion a regret at parting; but it is considerably heighten'd by your quitting the service and thereby depriving me of the hope of seeing you return to benefit the Country by your abilities and Experience in your profession, [if such an Establishment as this great Empire ought to adopt for the Peace of it should be finally agreed to, but which at this moment is yet undecided.]

It would afford me much pleasure to tell you this personally before your departure, but if I should not have this satisfaction I beg you to be assured that you carry with you every good wish I can form for you, and that [I shall ever retain a grateful sense of the Aids I have derived from your knowledge and advice

<sup>97</sup> The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

On October 18 Washington wrote briefly to the Secretary of War that he had given the foregoing directions to Steuben. The draft of this letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

Also, on this same day (October 18), Washington wrote, very briefly, to Brigadier General Laumoy, forwarding a certificate of service. The draft of this letter is in the *Washington Papers*, as is also the draft of the Certificate.

On October 24 Washington wrote to Colonel Nicola that previous to the receipt of the memorial from the officers of the Invalid Corps directions had been given to Baron Steuben to make the inspection they requested. The memorial is in the *Washington Papers* under date of Oct. 28, 1783.

and more especially for the repeated testimonials I have recd. of your friendship and attachment to me.] I am etc.<sup>88</sup>

### TO MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE

Rocky Hill, October 20, 1783.

Sir: I do myself the honor to transmit to you herewith a Copy of the Institution of the Cincinnati a Society formed by the American Officers before they seperated and retired to private life.

The principles of the society the purposes for which it was formed and the qualifications necessary to become Members will fully appear by the Institution. Should any of the Foreign Officers who are qualified by serving three Years in our Army, wish to become Members, I must take the liberty to request you to let them sign the Institution and pay the necessary sum into your hands.

Major L'Enfant who will have the honor to deliver you this, has undertaken to get the Order of the society executed in France, he has directions to deliver you one of the first that are compleated, and you will please also to call on him for as many more as you may want Maj. L'Enfant will inform you the price of them, the Deplomas shall be forwarded as soon as they can be made out. I am etc.<sup>89</sup>

### \*TO MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Rocky Hill, October 23, 1783.

My dear Sir: Since the return of Genl. Lincoln, I have taken occasion to move a little on the subject of your letter of the 17th.

<sup>88</sup>The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker. The portions in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

<sup>89</sup>The draft, in the writing of Benjamin Walker, is in the *Papers of the Society of the Cincinnati* in the Library of Congress.

of last Month, notwithstanding other matters have kept the Peace Establishment entirely out of view. I suppose, at least I so hope, that it will now be entered upon with a determination to go through with it, without more delay.

Upon enquiry, I do not perceive any intention to abolish the Office of Secretary at War; but to place it upon a more æconomical plan. I find that, General Lincoln (I believe, before he went to the Eastward) was called upon to aid in this business. and that a Committee, in consequence, have actually reported to the effect of the enclosed paper which I obtained from General Lincoln; and have since found that it corresponds with the report.

By what I can learn, there is a great diversity of Sentiment among the Members of Congress respecting the Peace Establishment; and that great opposition will be given to the Measure, when ever it is brought forward. It may be well therefore, for you to consider, whether upon the footing, and with the emoluments as agreed to by the Committee, the Office of Secretary at War (which I presume will very soon be acted upon) would meet your views. If it should, and you will let me know it by the return of the Post, I will mention your name to more Gentlemen of my Acquaintance in Congress than I have already done, and should be happy if any endeavors of mine, can serve you. Genl. Lincoln is of opinion, that a capable and confidential Assistant may be had for, say between 500 and a 1000 Dollars; but when to this Travelling expences, Wood, Paper, Candles &c. are added, *I* should think it would sink pretty deep into the residue; *He* conceives otherwise, unless the Secretary, whoever he may be, chuses to travel with a retinue and incur more expence than is necessary. Whether the acceptance of this Office would open a door to any thing more than appears upon the fact of the report, is not for me to say; nor wd. it

do I think to depend upon: The uncertainty of what Offices may take place, in case of a Peace establishment; or whether there will be a Continental Establishment or not, is such, that it is too hazardous for me to deliver any opinion upon, tho' I shall neglect no opportunity of making myself acquainted with the views of Congress, in all the Stages of this business, and I will drop you a line on the Subject.

My best wishes attend Mrs. Knox and I am with the greatest truth etc.

P S. Shaw, no doubt, will give you a full acct. of your Money applicn. the way have been so paved, that the only difficulty in it, I believe, is to get nine States (which are necessary in these cases) together.<sup>1</sup>

[MS.H.S.]

### TO GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Rocky Hill, October 23, 1783.

Dr. Sir: I was extremely glad to hear by a Letter from Colonel Varick that tho' not yet restored to your usual State of health you was recovering it daily.

From many circumstances I think it now pretty evident that the British will leave New York in all next Month Sir Guy Carleton has informed me [verbally, through Mr. Parker,] that he expects to evacuate the City by the 20th. and that when the Transports which were gone to Nova Scotia returned he should be able to fix the day of his departure. in consequence

<sup>1</sup>On October 23 Washington wrote a duplicate of this letter, evidently to be sent to Knox by a different hand. In this the P. S. was entirely different from the above, being: "The Salary annexed to the Office of Secretary at War, by the Comee, if my Memy. Serves me, is 3500 Dolrs. With this, he is to keep a Clerk, or Assistant, always at the place where Congress resides and to bear the whole Expence of the Office in Wood, Candle and Paper. He himself is to visit the Magazines twice (I think) every year and to attend Congress occasionally." This duplicate is in the Massachusetts Historical Society.



of this Intelligence, and fearfull least I should not have timely Notice. I have this day written to General Knox, desiring him to confer with your Excellency and make every necessary Arrangement for taking possession of the City the moment the British quit it; an Extract of this Letter I do myself the honor to inclose. With great esteem etc.

P. S. I was just on the point of closing this when I reced your Excellencys Letter of the 14 Instant and I am sorry to learn from it that you are still in such a low state of health.

The propriety of putting the Troops who may move towards the City under your Excellencys direction strikes me very forcibly, and I have mentioned it in a Postscript to Genl. Knoxs Letter; it will accordingly form part of the Arrangement you shall both agree on. I shall with pleasure comply with your wishes in sending you by express the first notice I get of the day intended for the evacuation.<sup>2</sup>

#### TO MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Rocky hill, October 23, 1783.

Dear Sir: The arrival of the Definitive Treaty and the evacuation of New York, have been so long delayed as to interfere very materially with our arrangements for the Celebration of Peace; at this Season no use can be made of the Bower,<sup>3</sup> the only possible means of accomodation, besides, the dissolution of the Army at so short a period totally defeats the object in view, for if we were even determined not to wait the events on which the Celebration has hitherto depended, it would now be impossible either to make the necessary preparations or to give

<sup>2</sup>The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

<sup>3</sup>Knox's letter of September 10 says "bowers."

timely notice to the Officers, before the Army would be dissolved: I think therefore that it will be best to deter it until the British leave the City, and then to have it at that place, where all who chuse to attend can find accomodation.

Sir Guy Carleton some time since informed me, thro' Mr. Parker, that he should leave New York in all next Month, probably by the 20th., and that when the Transports which were gone to Nova Scotia returned, he should be able to fix the day; this notice may be short, and as it is best to be prepared, I wish you to confer on the subject with Governor Clinton, and have every necessary Arrangement made for taking possession of the City immediately on their leaving it; you will please to report to me the arrangements you may agree on.

Inclosed I transmit you Copy of a Proclamation of Congress for the dissolution of the Army,\* you will please to publish it to the Troops under your Orders.

I am now to acknowledge the receipt of your Letter of the 15th of this Month, If the Men whose terms of service expire in December and January, are not sufficient for the purpose of procuring Wood for the Garrison, I have no objection to your including those whose inlistments expire February, [this may be done now with greater propriety than heretofore as the British Force at New York has been very considerably reduced within this Fortnight.]

In permitting the Officers to retire nothing more need be attended to, than to keep a sufficient number for the Troops who remain in service. It is now three Weeks since I directed the Clothier General to make the necessary provision of Cloathing for the Winter. I am not yet informed how far he has proceeded in compliance with these directions, but I will do all in

\*Dated Oct. 18, 1783. The original is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*.

my power to have you supplied. By a return made this month I observe there is a quantity of Cloathing in Store at Newburg; this will go far in supplying the immediate wants of the Troops; observing in the distribution of it to favor those Men who having longest to serve are most intitled to it. There is some refuse Cloathing returned which might relieve the Wants of those who are to be discharged. With very great regard, etc.

P. S. Since I wrote the foregoing I have reced a Letter from Governor Clinton in which he mentions his wish that the Troops who move down may be put under his direction which I think very proper so long as they remain in or near the City.<sup>6</sup>

[MS.H.S.]

#### TO CAPTAIN PHILIP LEIBERT

Rocky Hill, October 24, 1783.

Sir: In answer to your Memorial which I reced yesterday, I am to inform you that Major General Baron Steuben has directions to make an Inspection of the Invalids at Philadelphia, and to report the situation of the respective officers. You will please therefore to lay before him any pretensions you may have. I am, etc.<sup>6</sup>

#### CIRCULAR TO THE SENIOR OFFICER OF THE CINCINNATI IN CERTAIN STATES<sup>7</sup>

Rocky hill, October 24, 1783.

Sir: At the Original Institution of the Society of the Cincinnati, Major General Heath who then presided, was desired to

<sup>6</sup>In the writing of Benjamin Walker. The words in brackets in the draft are in the writing of Washington, whose capitalization is here followed.

<sup>6</sup>The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

<sup>7</sup>In Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia.

transmit a Copy of the Institution with the proceedings thereon to the Senior Officer in each of the Southern States to request them to communicate the same to the Officers under their command, and take such measures as might appear necessary for expediting the establishment of the Society in their respective States.

To the Letter sent on this occasion to the Senior Officer in your State, no Answer has been received.

At a subsequent meeting of the Society it was deemed expedient to appoint a President General P. T., and the honor of the choice falling upon me, it becomes a part of my duty to name the place for the General meeting in May next and in order to make it as Central as possible, for the general convenience, it is necessary I should know in which of the States the Society is established.

I must therefore request, that you would be pleased to inform me, as soon as possible, whether the Establishment has taken place in your State, and what measures have been taken to effect it. I am etc.<sup>a</sup>

[C.L.]

### TO COLONEL RICHARD HUMPTON

Rocky Hill, October 24, 1783.

Sir: The Honorable the Congress having, by their Proclamation of the 18th Instant, thought proper to discharge their Army; I am to desire that immediately on the receipt of this you proceed to discharge the Troops under your Command at Philada. You will please to call at the War Office for Blank Discharges and report to me your proceedings in this business. I am, etc.<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup>In the writing of Benjamin Walker, and addressed to Maj. Gen. Lachlan McIntosh.

<sup>b</sup>The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

## TO MAJOR GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE

Rocky Hill, October 26, 1783.

Dear Sir: It gives me infinite satisfaction to transmit you the inclosed Copy of a Resolve of Congress of the 18 Inst.<sup>10</sup> which was put into my hands yesterday.

Perfectly coinciding with the sentiments which Congress have expressed on this occasion I shall feel the greatest pleasure in complying with their Resolve; but I must request you to inform me where the pieces of Ordnance are to be found, and to what place you wou'd wish to have them sent. I am, etc.

P S. I have reced your Letter with the names of several Officers who wish to remain in Service on a Peace Establishment. I shall take pleasure in mentioning them whenever such an Establishment takes place, at present it hangs in suspense.<sup>11</sup>

## \*TO THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE

Rocky Hill, October 28, 1783.

Dear Sir: I heard today, with great pleasure, that Mrs. Morris and you intended to Princeton; and would be here at the time of the Public Audience which is to be given to the Dutch Minister.

I pray you to be assured, that you can make no Family *more* happy, than you would do mine, by lodging under their roof, and that nothing in my power shall be wanting, to make Mrs. Morris's time pass as agreeably as possible, in a Batchelors Hall.

I should do injustice to my sensibility, were I not to express my thanks to Mrs. Morris and you, for your polite attention

<sup>10</sup>That two pieces of field ordnance, taken from the British at Cowpens, Augusta, or Futaw, be presented by the Commander in Chief to Major General Greene, and that they be engraved with the substance of the resolution of Congress.

<sup>11</sup>The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

On October 26 Washington wrote a brief note to Knox, introducing Arthur Noble, a gentleman from Ireland. This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

and civilities to Mrs. Washington while she was in Philadelphia, and to assure you that with every sentiment of esteem etc.

### TO CONRAD ALEXANDRE GÉRARD

Rocky hill in New Jersey, October 29, 1783.

Sir: The Officers of the American Army, to perpetuate those friendships which have been formed during a time of common danger and distress, and for other purposes mentioned in the Institution, did before their separation associate themselves into a society of Friends under the name of the Cincinnati; and having done me the honor to elect me their President General, it becomes a pleasing part of my duty to acquaint you, that the society have done themselves the honor to enroll your name among their Members.

Major L'Enfant, who will have the honor to deliver you this Letter, is charged by the Society with the execution of their Order in France, and has directions to furnish you with one of the first that are completed, and so soon as the Diploma can be made out, I shall do myself the honor to transmit it to you. With the greatest consideration, respect etc.<sup>12</sup> [H.L.]

### \* TO THE COUNTESS OF TANKERVILLE

Princeton in the State of New Jersey, October 30, 1783.

My Lady: About ten days ago I had the honor to receive your Ladyships favor of the 21st. of June from London.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>12</sup>In the writing of Benjamin Walker.

This same letter was sent to Comte de Grasse, Comte D'Estaing, Comte de Barras, Chevalier Destouches, and Comte de Rochambeau. The letter to Rochambeau varied slightly in phraseology from the above, as follows: "the society have done themselves the honor to consider You and the Generals and Colonels of the Army you commanded in America, as Members." And after the word "completed": "He is also directed to deliver to You the Orders for the Gentlemen of Your Army before mentioned which I must take the liberty to request You to present them with in the name of the Society."

<sup>13</sup>Not now found in the *Washington Papers*.

It is painful to me to be under the necessity of declining the trust which the Earl of Tankerville and your other Son the Honble. Mr. Bennett have invested me with. To discharge the duties of which, your Ladyships state of matters and request, would be strong excitements, if my situation was not such as would render it an act of injustice in me to undertake what I am *sure* I could not execute.

I am not yet returned to Virginia after an absence of almost nine years from my family and home; I have every reason to believe that my private concerns there are in a very deranged State but this does not give me so much pain as to *know* that those of others wch. had been committed to my care, are suffering equally. To recover all these from the disorder into which they have run will be attended with more difficulty and require a much longer time than comports with that ease, and freedom from care, of which I stand very much in need.

Being altogether unacquainted with such a Gentleman as Colo. Robert I. Howe of Alexandria (the second person named in the Power of Attorney) unless thereby is meant Majr. Genl. Robert Howe, who neither is, or ever was of that place. I have sent it to Edmd. Randolph Esqr. the Attorney General. who, no doubt will advice you of his intention, and what further ought to be done. I have the honor etc.

#### \*To WAKELIN WELCH

Princeton in the State of New Jersey, October 30, 1783.

Sir: I have had the honor to receive the duplicate of your favor of the 31st. of May, the original is not yet come to hand. I am not yet returned to Virginia after an absence almost Nine Years from my Estate; when I get there and can have time to examine into the situation of my Affairs, I shall not want a

disposition to do compleat and ample justice in the Settlement, and payment of all my Accounts. In the meantime, I cannot avoid complaining of the treatment I have met with from your House in misleading me, as to the mode of transferring the Bank stock. Ten years ago, or more, when it was my desire to do this, and you were called upon to point out the form, I was run to considerable expence, and put to much trouble to follow your directions; after fulfilling which, I was told that mode would not do, and another was suggested, but the troubles commencing, and my leaving Virginia, prevented the execution of the second; I speak now from memory, but believe I have not misrecited facts.

As it now is, as it then was, my intention to apply this money towards payment of the Balle. I owed your House, I would beg of you to take out such powers for the transfer, and give me such precise and ample directions for the execution as will admit of no doubt or delay. As the money will be for your benefit by its being applyed to the credit of your Ho. I wish you to have the negociation of the matter; the Letter of Admn. power of Attorney or by whatever other name called may be made out in your name accordingly.

The Acct. Currnt., alluded to in your letter not having yet got to hand, I cannot speak to the Contents. to the best of my recollection, your Ho. was indebted to the deceased Mr. Custis when I left Virginia in May 1775; what may have happened since, I know not, the year following, he took charge of his own Estate, I cannot be responsible therefore for what may have happened afterwards. I have raised no Tobo. for severl. years on my Estate, whether I shall return to the growth of it again must depend upon the price it is likely to bear, and other circumstances; of which I can form no judgment 'till I get back to Virginia; which will be, I trust, so soon as the British Forces shall have



evacuated New York. I condole with you on the loss of your Partners Messrs. Cary and Moorey<sup>14</sup> at the sametime that I congratulate you on the happy termination of the War, and restoration of Peace. I am etc.

### TO MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Rocky Hill, October 30, 1783.

Sir: I am directed by the Commander in Chief to enclose you his Farewell Orders, which he desires you to publish on the 2d. day of next month; As the General will take measures for publishing them in the Philadelphia Papers, perhaps it will be better that they come to the public thro' that Channel only, as thereby all incorrect Copies will be prevented from appearing. I am, etc.<sup>15</sup>

### TO MAJOR PIERRE CHARLES L'ENFANT

October 30, 1783.

Sir: Herewith you will receive 250 Dollars in bank notes, with which you will please to procure for me eight of the bald eagles. One of which if there shall appear (upon conversing<sup>16</sup> with gentlemen, better acquainted in these matters than I am) no impropriety in it, or any deviation from the intention of the Order. May not only be finished in a masterly manner but ornamented in an elegant, tho' not in a costly Stile.<sup>17</sup> If, on the contrary, it should be thought best to have no difference between any of them, in the decorations, (for I do not mean to depart in the smallest degree from the forms of the Order)

<sup>14</sup>Robert Cary and John Moory.

<sup>15</sup>The draft is in the writing of and is signed "David Cobb."

<sup>16</sup>The "Letter Book" has "canvassing."

<sup>17</sup>In the "Letter Book" the words "elegant" and "stile" are underscored.

then seven will be sufficient for me, as the ornamental one would only have been used on extra occasions.

I have in the Letter you are charged with to the Marquis de la Fayette, requested him to send me, by the earliest opportunity, a sett of Silver plated ware; but as there is not only a possibility but a probability, that he may have left Paris for this country before you get there, or may be absent on some other occasion, I beg, in that case, that you would open my letter to him, and comply with the contents of it, if you can do it conveniently. Wishing you a pleasant passage, and a prosperous voyage. I am, etc.<sup>18</sup>

### TO MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE

Rocky Hill, October 30, 1783.

Sir: I do myself the honor to transmit You herewith a Copy of the Institution of the Cincinnati a Society formed by the American Officers before they seperated and retired to private life.

The principles of the society the purposes for which it was form'd and the qualifications necessary to become Members will fully appear by the Institution. Should any of the Foreign Officers who are qualified by serving three years in our Army wish to become Members, I must take the liberty to request You to let them sign the Institution and pay the necessary sum into Your hands.

Major L'Enfant who will have the honor to deliver You this, has undertaken to get the Order of the society executed in France. He has directions to deliver you one of the first that are completed, and You will please also to call on Him for as

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<sup>18</sup>From a copy by Toner in the Toner Transcripts in the Library of Congress made from the original then in the papers of Thos. A. Digges, of Maryland. The "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers* varies from the above in many verbal details.

many as You may want. Major L'Enfant will inform You the price of them; the Deplomas shall be forwarded as soon as they can be made out.<sup>19</sup> I am etc.<sup>20</sup>

### TO MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE

Princeton, October 30, 1783.

My Dr. Marqs. As I persuade myself it would rather give you pain than pleasure, were I to apologize for any liberty I might take with you, which does not exceed the rules of propriety and friendship; I shall proceed without further hesitation or ceremony to beg the favour of you to send me of the plated wares (or what formerly used to be called French plate) the articles contained in the enclosed memorandum. to which, as I am not much of a connoisseur in, and trouble my head very little about these matters, you may add any thing else of the like kind which may be thought useful and ornamental, except Dishes, plates and Spoons, of the two first I am not inclined to possess any, and of the latter I have a sufficiency of every kind.

I shall esteem it a very particular favor if you would let me have these things as soon as possible, by the first Vessel which may sail after they are ready either to Alexandria, Baltimore, Philadelphia or New York, the last, on account of the packets which are to sail twice in every month, might be the readiest conveyance to this Country, tho' it would not be so convenient for me afterwards. Nevertheless, (as I am desirous of getting the Plate, as soon as may be) I would rather have them sent to that place than wait for a conveyance to either of the others.

<sup>19</sup>A certificate, dated Nov. 1, 1783, and signed by Washington as president general of the Cincinnati, was given L'Enfant, setting forth that he was a member of the Cincinnati and, though going to France on his own private affairs, was yet "charged with the execution of some important business of the Society." A copy of this certificate is in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>20</sup>From a contemporary copy in the writing of George Augustine Washington.

If you shou'd send these things to New York, be so good as to address them to Jacob Morris Esqr. (who now lives there) with a request that they may be forwarded to me by the stage, or any other ready and quick conveyance to Alexandria, or if this cannot be, then to hand them on to Colo. Biddle at Phila. who will, I am persuaded convey them from thence to me; as he would also do, if they should be sent to that place in the first instance directed to his care, by a Vessel bound to that Port. If they should be sent to Baltimore be pleased to direct them to the care of Colo. Tilghman, if there, or Saml. Purviance Esqr., if he is not.

I have not My Dr. Marqs. sent by this conveyance, money for the purchase of these articles: the reason is, I am altogether unacquainted with the prices of them; but a bill shall be remitted to you the moment I am informed of the cost; in the mean while I am sure you will have no hesitation in becoming responsible to the workman for the payment.

Altho' I promise not to apologise for giving you trouble in these matters, yet I cannot forbear assigning my reasons for doing it in this particular instance.

1st. then, because I do not incline to send to England (from whence formerly I had all my goods) for any thing I can get upon tolerable terms elsewhere.

2d. Because I have no correspondence with any Merchants or artisans in France.

3d. If I had, I might not be able to explain so well to them, as to you, my wants, who know our customs, taste and manner of living in America, and, 4th. Because I should rely much more upon your judgment and endeavours to prevent impositions upon me, both in the price and workmanship, than on those of a stranger.

I have only to wish, in the last place, that they may be packed in a proper (permanent) case, that will bear transportation in the first instance, and will be a proper repository afterwards when not in use, if it shou'd be found more convenient to keep them there. With best respects to Madame LaFayette, I am, etc.

A LIST OF PLATED WARE TO BE SENT

Every thing proper for a tea-table, and these it is supposed may consist of the following Articles: A Large Tea salver, square or round as shall be most fashionable; to stand on the Tea table for the purpose of holding the Urn, teapot, Coffee pot, Cream pot, China Cups and saucers &c.

A large Tea-Urn, or receptacle for the water which is to supply the tea pot, *at the table*. 2 large Tea pots, and stands for Ditto, 1 Coffee Pot and stand, 1 Cream Pot, 1 Boat or Tray, for the Tea spoons, 1 Tea-chest, such as usually appertains to tea or breakfast tables, the inner part of which, to have three departments, two for tea's of different kinds, the other for Sugar. If any thing else should be judged necessary it may be added, altho' it is not enumerated.

Also, Two large Salvers, sufficient to hold twelve common wine glasses, each.

Two smaller size Do for 6 wine glasses, each.

Two Bread-baskets, middle size.

A Sett of Casters, for holding, oil, Vinegar, Mustard &c.

A Cross or Stand for the centre of the Dining table.

12 Salts, with glasses in them.

Eight Bottle sliders.

Six large Goblets, for Costers.

Twelve Candlesticks. Three pair of snuffers, and stands for them.

And any thing else which may be deemed necessary, in this way. If this kind of plated Ware will bear engraving, I should be glad to have my arms thereon, the size of which will, it is to be presumed be large or small in proportion to the piece on which it is engraved.<sup>21</sup>

\*To ROBERT LEWIS & SONS

Rocky Hill, October 31, 1783.

Gentn.: Your favor of the 23d. is come to hand; since which I have received a letter from Mr. Lund Washington informing me, that Wm. Roberts my prest. Miller is not only uneasy at the thoughts of leaving my employ, but has given the strongest assurances of amendment if he should be continued. In consequence I have desired L. W. to contract with him for another year, provided you do not by the first Post to the Southward inform him that you have engaged a Miller; in that case your bargain is to be binding. But as he has given Roberts no encouragement and matters hang in suspence I should be glad, if a good Miller should offer himself to you, that he may not be refused till you hear from Lund Washington, whom I have desired to write to you on this subject without delay. I am etc.

\*To COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU

Princeton, November 1, 1783.

My dear Count: Since my last, written about a fortnight ago, and put into the hands of Genl. Duportail to convey to you, I have been honored with your favor of the 24th. of April from Paris. Be assured, my dear General that these repeated assurances of your friendship and frequent testimonials of your

<sup>21</sup>From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

affection for me are pleasingly grateful to me and makes a deep impression on My Mind.

Could I so far flatter my vanity as to believe that, a Visit from me to France, would afford any satisfaction to your August Sovereign as you seem to think it would it would add greatly, very greatly indeed to the pleasure I should feel in paying my respects to the Nation I esteem and the friends in it I love. And would make me forego many matters which private interest and convenience strongly prompt me to, to accomplish a voyage for this purpose.

We have this instant got the News of the Signing of the Definitive Treaty of Peace at Paris, on the 3d. of Sepr. On this happy Event permit me to offer you my warmest Congratulations and to express to you how much and how sincerely I am etc.

Let me entreat you to present me to the Viscount de Rochambeau, and those Gentn. of the army you Commanded in the Country in terms of sincere regard as you may occasionally meet them.

### TO MAJOR WILLIAM JACKSON

Rocky Hill, November 1, 1783.

Dr. Sir: Your Letter reached me yesterday and informed me of your intention to embark next Week for Europe.

Wishing from the esteem I entertain for your Character to render you every Service in my power, I could not avoid troubling you with the two inclosed Letters, tho' your acquaintance in France made it almost unnecessary.<sup>22</sup>

<sup>22</sup>On November 1 Washington wrote introductory letters, practically the same, to Benjamin Franklin and Marquis de Lafayette, introducing Jackson. These drafts are in the *Washington Papers*.

You will please to accept my thanks for your obliging offers, and my wishes for your safe pleasant and prosperous Voyage. With great esteem I am, etc.<sup>28</sup>

**\*To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX**

Rocky Hill, November 2, 1783.

Dear Sir: You will readily conceive how much I have been chagrened, and vexed at a loss occasioned by the stupidity of the Postmaster at Princeton, when I tell you, that the original of which the enclosed is a duplicate, and the first draughts of all my public and private letters written in the Six Weeks preceeding, were lost with the Mail on thursday Night last.

Having many letters to write by the Post the Week before, and being interrupted by Company, I was unable to get my dispatches ready the overnight (as usual) for the Mail, but sent them off by day break the next Morning to the Post Office, the Manager of which, as the Mail, I presume, was made up the night before, being too lazy to get up, suffered the Post rider to go off without them. Ashamed to return or to acknowledge that he had not sent them, he kept them to go by the last Weeks Post, by which means I have not only lost all my dispatches, but the draughts, as I have mentioned above, of all the letters which I have written within that course of time; they being enclosed to Colo. Varick for Registering.

Genl. Lincoln's resignation has been offered and accepted, he has been requested to continue the duties of Office till Congress Adjourn from this place before which it is thought no Successor will be appointed; it is very questionable indeed, whether after this day, there will be a sufficient number of

<sup>28</sup> The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.



States to do any business, important business there certainly will not.

I have conversed with several Members of Congress upon the propriety in time of Peace of Uniting the Office of Master of Ordnance and Secretary at War in one person, and letting him have the Command of the Troops on the Peace Establishment; not as an appendage of right, for that I think would be wrong but by sepearate appointment at the discretion of Congress; those I have spoken to on the subject seem to approve the idea which if adopted wd. make a handsome appointment; I will converse with others on this one head and let you know the result; my wishes to serve you in it you need not doubt, being with much truth Dr. Sir Yr. etc.

#### TO MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Rocky hill, November 2, 1783.

Dear Sir: I had the pleasure to reply to your Letter of the 15th. October to go by the Post before the last, but by some neglect my letter was left out of the Mail and remained in the Post Office untill the Evening before the last Post should have gone, when it was, with all the Eastern Mail, stolen from thence; unfortunately too, all the Copies of my letters up to that day met with the same accident, being inclosed to Colo. Varick to record.

I will now endeavour to recollect the Contents of my last.

If the number of men whose times expire in January are not sufficient for the purpose of providing Wood for the Garrison, I have no objection to your including those whose times expire in february: this may be done with more propriety now than heretofore, the British having lately considerably diminished their force in New York.

In permitting the Officers to retire, nothing more need be attended to, than keeping a sufficient number for the Troops which remain in service. It is now a long time since I directed the Clothier General to provide the necessary Winter Clothing for the Troops, he has not informed me what he has done in this business, I will press him again, and do all in my power to have you supplied; In the mean time the Clothing at Newburg will go some way in relieving your present wants, observing in the distribution of it to favor those who having longest to stay in service are most entitled to it; there is some refuse Clothing returned in store which might be applied to the most pressing wants of those whose times soon expire. So far one letter, in another which was lost at same time, I mentioned that Sir Guy Carleton had informed me verbally thro' Mr. Parker of his intention to evacuate the City in all November, and that when the Transports which were gone to Nova Scotia returned he should be able to fix the day, that as the Notice might be short I requested you to confer with Governor Clinton and have every necessary arrangement made for taking possession of New York the moment the British should evacuate it. I mentioned also the propriety of the Governors having the Command of the Troops who should move down, whilst they remained in or near the City. With great esteem etc.<sup>24</sup>

[MS.H.S.]

## FAREWELL ORDERS TO THE ARMIES OF THE UNITED STATES

Rock Hill, near Princeton, November 2, 1783.

The United States in Congress assembled after giving the most honorable testimony to the merits of the fœderal Armies, and presenting them with the thanks of their Country for their

<sup>24</sup>In the writing of Maj. William Jackson.

long, eminent, and faithful services, having thought proper by their proclamation bearing date the 18th. day of October last. to discharge such part of the Troops as were engaged for the war, and to permit the Officers on furlough to retire from service from and after to-morrow; which proclamation having been communicated in the publick papers for the information and government of all concerned; it only remains for the Comdr in Chief to address himself once more, and that for the last time, to the Armies of the U States (however widely dispersed the individuals who compose them may be) and to bid them an affectionate, a long farewell.

But before the Comdr in Chief takes his final leave of those he holds most dear, he wishes to indulge himself a few moments in calling to mind a slight review of the past. He will then take the liberty of exploring, with his military friends, their future prospects, of advising the general line of conduct, which in his opinion, ought to be pursued, and he will conclude the Address by expressing the obligations he feels himself under for the spirited and able assistance he has experienced from them in the performance of an arduous Office.

A contemplation of the compleat attainment (at a period earlier than could have been expected) of the object for which we contended against so formidable a power cannot but inspire us with astonishment and gratitude. The disadvantageous circumstances on our part, under which the war was undertaken, can never be forgotten. The singular interpositions of Providence in our feeble condition were such, as could scarcely escape the attention of the most unobserving; while the unparalleled perseverance of the Armies of the U States, through almost every possible suffering and discouragement for the space of eight long years, was little short of a standing miracle.

It is not the meaning nor within the compass of this address

to detail the hardships peculiarly incident to our service, or to describe the distresses, which in several instances have resulted from the extremes of hunger and nakedness, combined with the rigours of an inclement season; nor is it necessary to dwell on the dark side of our past affairs. Every American Officer and Soldier must now console himself for any unpleasant circumstances which may have occurred by a recollection of the uncommon scenes in which he has been called to Act no inglorious part, and the astonishing events of which he has been a witness, events which have seldom if ever before taken place on the stage of human action, nor can they probably ever happen again. For who has before seen a disciplined Army form'd at once from such raw materials? Who, that was not a witness, could imagine that the most violent local prejudices would cease so soon, and that Men who came from the different parts of the Continent, strongly disposed, by the habits of education, to despise and quarrel with each other, would instantly become but one patriotic band of Brothers, or who, that was not on the spot, can trace the steps by which such a wonderful revolution has been effected, and such a glorious period put to all our warlike toils?

It is universally acknowledged, that the enlarged prospects of happiness, opened by the confirmation of our independence and sovereignty, almost exceeds the power of description. And shall not the brave men, who have contributed so essentially to these inestimable acquisitions, retiring victorious from the field of War to the field of agriculture, participate in all the blessings which have been obtained; in such a republic, who will exclude them from the rights of Citizens and the fruits of their labour. In such a Country, so happily circumstanced, the pursuits of Commerce and the cultivation of the soil will unfold to industry the certain road to competence. To those hardy Soldiers,

who are actuated by the spirit of adventure the Fisheries will afford ample and profitable employment, and the extensive and fertile regions of the West will yield a most happy asylum to those, who, fond of domestic enjoyments are seeking for personal independence. Nor is it possible to conceive, that any one of the U States will prefer a national bankruptcy and a dissolution of the union, to a compliance with the requisitions of Congress and the payment of its just debts; so that the Officers and Soldiers may expect considerable assistance in recommencing their civil occupations from the sums due to them from the public, which must and will most inevitably be paid.

In order to effect this desirable purpose and to remove the prejudices which may have taken possession of the minds of any of the good people of the States, it is earnestly recommended to all the Troops that with strong attachments to the Union, they should carry with them into civil society the most conciliating dispositions; and that they should prove themselves not less virtuous and useful as Citizens, than they have been persevering and victorious as Soldiers. What tho, there should be some envious individuals who are unwilling to pay the debt the public has contracted, or to yield the tribute due to merit; yet, let such unworthy treatment produce no invective or any instance of intemperate conduct; let it be remembered that the unbiassed voice of the few <sup>26</sup> Citizens of the United States has promised the just reward, and given the merited applause; let it be known and remembered, that the reputation of the foederal Armies is established beyond the reach of malevolence; and let a conscientiousness <sup>28</sup> of their achievements and fame still unite <sup>27</sup> the men, who composed them to honourable actions; under the persuasion that the private virtues of

<sup>26</sup> This word should be "free." It is written "Free" in Cobb's draft.

<sup>28</sup> "Consciousness" in the draft.

<sup>27</sup> "Incite" in the draft.

oeconomy, prudence, and industry, will not be less amiable in civil life, than the more splendid qualities of valour, perseverance, and enterprise were in the Field. Every one may rest assured that much, very much of the future happiness of the Officers and Men will depend upon the wise and manly conduct which shall be adopted by them when they are mingled with the great body of the community. And, altho the General has so frequently given it as his opinion, in the most public and explicit manner, that, unless the principles of the federal government were properly supported and the powers of the union increased, the honour, dignity, and justice of the nation would be lost forever. Yet he cannot help repeating, on this occasion, so interesting a sentiment, and leaving it as his last injunction to every Officer and every Soldier, who may view the subject in the same serious point of light, to add his best endeavours to those of his worthy fellow Citizens towards effecting these great and valuable purposes on which our very existence as a nation so materially depends.

The Commander in chief conceives little is now wanting to enable the Soldiers <sup>28</sup> to change the military character into that of the Citizen, but that steady and decent tenor of behaviour which has generally distinguished, not only the Army under his immediate command, but the different detachments and seperate Armies through the course of the war. From their good sense and prudence he anticipates the happiest consequences; and while he congratulates them on the glorious occasion, which renders their services in the field no longer necessary, he wishes to express the strong obligations he feels himself under for the assistance he has received from every Class, and in every instance. He presents his thanks in the most serious and affectionate manner to the General Officers,

<sup>28</sup> "Soldier" in the draft.

as well for their counsel on many interesting occasions, as for their Order<sup>29</sup> in promoting the success of the plans he had adopted. To the Commandants of Regiments and Corps, and to the other Officers for their great zeal and attention, in carrying his orders promptly into execution. To the Staff, for their alacrity and exactness in performing the Duties of their several Departments. And to the Non Commissioned Officers and private Soldiers, for their extraordinary patience in suffering, as well as their invincible fortitude in Action. To the various branches of the Army the General takes this last and solemn opportunity of professing his inviolable attachment and friendship. He wishes more than bare professions were in his power, that he were really able to be useful to them all in future life. He flatters himself however, they will do him the justice to believe, that whatever could with propriety be attempted by him has been done, and being now to conclude these his last public Orders, to take his ultimate leave in a short time of the military character, and to bid a final adieu to the Armies he has so long had the honor to Command, he can only again offer in their behalf his recommendations to their grateful country, and his prayers to the God of Armies. May ample justice be done them here, and may the choicest of heaven's favours, both here and hereafter, attend those who, under the devine auspices, have secured innumerable blessings for others; with these wishes, and this benediction, the Commander in Chief is about to retire from Service. The Curtain of seperation will soon be drawn, and the military scene<sup>30</sup> to him will be closed for ever.<sup>31</sup>

<sup>29</sup>"Ardor" in the draft.

<sup>30</sup>The word "Scene" is inadvertently omitted.

<sup>31</sup>From the copy in the writing of John Singer Dexter, assistant adjutant general of the Continental Army.

From this paper, presumably, the orders were read to the troops then at West Point. It is indorsed by Brig. Gen. James Clinton: "Genl Washington farewell orders to the Army in 1783." It is now (1937) on deposit in the Library of Congress. The draft, in the writing of David Cobb, is in the *Washington Papers*.

## TO GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Rocky Hill, November 2, 1783.

Dr. Sir: Your Excellency's favor of the 14 October reached me in a few days and was replied to the day I reced it, to go by the Post before the last, by some neglect however the letter was left out of the Mail and remained in the Post Office until the Evening before the last Post should have gone, when it was with all the Eastern Mail stolen from thence nor can I now send you a Copy for all the Copies of my letters both public and private to that day met the same fate being inclosed to Colo. Varick to record.<sup>22</sup>

I had by the same Post and before I reced your Excellencys Letter, directed Genl. Knox to confer with you and have every necessary arrangement made to take possession of N York the moment the British should evacuate it; this I did in consequence of Sir Guy Carleton informing me verbally thro' Mr. Parker that he expected to evacuate the City by the 20th of this Month and that when the Transports which were gone to Nova Scotia returned he should be able to fix the day.

Receiving your Letter after I had written this to Gen Knox I added a Post cript to his Letter desiring the Troops which might move down might be under your Command; my Letter to your Excy gave all this information and assured you of my Compliance with your request in sending you by Express the first notice I should receive of Sir Guy's intention to leave the City.

I now do myself the honor to inclose your Excellency extract of a Letter from Colo. Ogdon to me which assures us of the

<sup>22</sup> Varick wrote (Dec. 7, 1783): "The lost papers are just come to Hand and I have folded but not had Time to Number them . . . the Letter to me was not open'd, but in perfect Order and Muddy." Varick's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.



Definitive Treaty being signed the 3 September so that we may momentarily expect its arrival. I am, etc.<sup>32</sup>

TO COLONEL TIMOTHY PICKERING

Rocky Hill, November 3, 1783.

Sir: I am favored with your Letter of the 27 of October. As Congress have by their Proclamation, discharged all that part of the Army which were before furloughed I am to desire you to continue to discharge such Officers of your Department as become Supernumerary instead of furloughing them as directed in my last. I am, etc.<sup>33</sup>

TO BRIGADIER GENERAL  
CHARLES ARMAND-TUFFIN

Rocky hill, November 3, 1783.

Dr. Sir: I enclose you a Resolution of Congress which was passed on the 29th. of last month, and transmitted to me yesterday; by this you will observe the necessity I am under of requesting you to discharge the Legion under your Command as soon as possible; on application to the War Office in Philadelphia you may be supplied with the necessary blank discharges. I am, etc.<sup>34</sup>

PROCLAMATION

November 4, 1783.

Whereas the United States in Congress assembled were pleased on the 29 day of October last to pass the following resolve.

<sup>32</sup> The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

On November 3 (the "Letter Book" record is dated November 4) a certificate of service was given to Capt. Samuel Shaw, usually called "Major," from his aide rank. This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>34</sup> The draft is in the writing of David Cobb.

"That the Comr in Chief &c." <sup>35</sup>

In compliance therefore with the foregoing resolve I do hereby give this public Notice that from and after the fifteenth day of this instant November all Troops within the above description shall be considered as discharged from the service of the United States. And all Officers commanding Corps or Detachments of any such Troops are hereby directed to grant them proper discharges accordingly.<sup>36</sup>

### TO THE SECRETARY AT WAR

Rocky Hill, November 4, 1783.

Dr. Sir: I return you the Subsistence Roll of the Officers of the Hospital Department.

Dr. Craik having retired, does not I dare say expect to be continued on the list. As to the rest it is impossible for me to judge of the necessity of their services; some of them might doubtless be dispensed with. I will write immediately to the Director General on the Subject, and transmit you his Answer so soon as I receive it. I have the honor, etc.<sup>37</sup>

### TO DOCTOR JOHN COCHRAN

Rocky Hill, November 4, 1783.

Sir: The Troops in Pensilvania, and to the southward of it (except the Garrison of Fort Pitt) being all discharged by a Proclamation of this day, it appears to me no longer necessary to keep in service so many Officers of the Hospital Departmt as

<sup>35</sup> So written in the draft. The *Journals of the Continental Congress*, Oct. 29, 1783, read: "That the Commander in Chief be, and he is hereby directed to discharge all the troops in the service of the United States, who are now in Pensylvania or to the southward thereon, except the garrison of Fort Pitt."

<sup>36</sup> The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

are included in the within Copy of a Subsistence Roll for this Month as has been transmitted me. I am now to desire you, to transmit me as soon as possible a List of such Officers of your Department as it will be absolutely necessary to retain for the Troops which remain in service, and to acquaint the rest that their services are no longer necessary.<sup>87</sup>

To J. G. GEBHARD <sup>88</sup>

Rocky Hill, November 5, 1783.

Sir: I am favored with your Letter of the 15 September.

The happiness I experience in engaging the affections and esteem of my Country and the satisfaction I feel in having done my utmost to support their just Cause and promote their common good are, to me, the best rewards and beyond which I have none to wish for.

Tho' I cannot but be sensibly impressed by the many declarations of respect to me in your Letter and the delicacy of expression you have chosen to convey them by, yet the plan of policy connected with them and the intimations which accompany them, I cannot say accord altogether with my sentiments; nor can I think the publication of your address will be attended with any good consequences. I hope that giving you my opinion thus freely will Serve only to convince you that I set a true value on the favor you have done me and that, I am, etc.<sup>89</sup>

<sup>87</sup>The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

On November 4 a certificate of service was granted to Captain Bartholomew von Heer. The draft of this certificate is in the *Washington Papers*.

Also, on this same day (November 4), a certificate of service was granted to Maj. Allen McLane. A copy, apparently made in the War Office, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, no. 152, vol. 11. fol. 647.

<sup>88</sup>Of Claverack, N. Y.

<sup>89</sup>The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker. Gebhard's letter of September 15 is in the *Washington Papers*. It was a veiled suggestion for Washington to assume control of the Government.

## \*TO THE SECRETARY AT WAR

Rocky Hill, November 6, 1783.

Dear Sir: As the Gentlemen<sup>40</sup> who are now remaining of my family, propose to honor me with their Company to my Ho. in Virginia and will of course need a little of their Pay, you will oblige both them and me, if you could devise a method by which three or four Months of it could be obtained. I am etc.

## \*TO ALEXANDER HAMILTON

Rocky Hill, November 6, 1783.

Dear Sir: The enclosed is a letter which I had written, and was about to dispatch at the date of it; but upon second thoughts, determined to Postpone it, and try, if from the importance of the matter, I could not bring forward the Peace Establishment previously.

I have tried it, in vain, Congress; after resolving on the ——<sup>41</sup> of last Month to adjourn upon the 12th. of this, did, equally unexpectedly and surprizingly to me, finish their Session at this place the day before yesterday<sup>42</sup>; without bringing the Peace Establishment, or any of the many other pressing matters, to a decision.

Finding this was likely to be the case, I shewed your letter to some of your particular friends, and consulted them on the propriety of making known your wishes; with my testimonial of your Services to Congress; but they advised me to decline it, under a full persuasion that no discrimination would, or indeed could be made at this late hour, as every other Officer from the highest to the lowest grades (not in actual command) were

<sup>40</sup> Humphreys, Cobb, and Walker.

<sup>41</sup> October 30.

<sup>42</sup> Adjourned November 4 to convene at Annapolis, Md., November 26. A sufficient number of the States were not represented until December 13.

retiring without the retention of Rank, and that the remainder, upon a Peace Establishment (if a Continental one should ever take place) would come in upon the New System, under fresh appointments; so that unless you wished to come into actual command again, (which none supposed) they saw no way by which you could preserve your Rank.

I have the pleasure to enclose you a Brevet; giving you the Rank of full Colonel; and with best respects to Mrs. Hamilton and General Schuyler and family I am etc.<sup>43</sup>

#### TO CHEVALIER DE LA LUZERNE

Rocky Hill, November 6, 1783.

Sir: Lieutenant Colonel Villefranche and Major Rochefontaine, late of the Corps of Engineers, having quitted the service of the United States, and being about to return to France, have requested me to signify to your Excellency my opinion of their services in this Country.

The Zeal, Activity, and knowledge of their profession, which have been conspicuous in the conduct of these Gentlemen, could not but gain my entire approbation, and the pleasure of doing them this justice, is greatly increased by the opportunity it affords me of repeating to your Excellency the sincere respect etc.<sup>44</sup>

#### TO SIR GUY CARLETON

Rocky Hill, November 6, 1783.

Sir: I have had the honor to receive your Letter of the 3d of Octr. acquainting me with the arrangements your Excellency has made for the removal of the Troops and Stores of his Britannick Majesty from the Post of Penobscot.

<sup>43</sup> From the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

<sup>44</sup> In the writing of Benjamin Walker. From the original in the *Paris Archives, Aff. Etrang., Mems. et Docs., E. U.*, vol. 6.

In consequence of the information given by your Excellency to Congress some time past, that you had received Orders for the evacuation of New York, and of the verbal message you were pleased to send by Mr Parker to me, respecting the period of embarkation; I am now induced to request you will be so obliging as to inform me of the particular time, or even the certain day (if possible) when this event will happen.

This information will be extremely interesting to my private [as well as public] arrangements, indeed I should not have troubled your Excellency with the request, but for my peculiar circumstances and the advanced season, which render it essential for me to be ascertained of the period of your embarkation as early as may be convenient; and which I entreat may be considered as my apology for the present application.

Colo Cobb one of my Aids de Camp, will have the honor of delivering this Letter, and of bearing your Ansr to me. I have the honor etc.<sup>45</sup>

TO THE OFFICERS OF THE  
SOMERSET COUNTY MILITIA<sup>46</sup>

Somerset, November 7, 1783.

Gentlemen: I thank you for the polite attention you pay to me in your address<sup>47</sup> and for the affectionate anxiety you express for my happiness.

With a heart deeply impressed by the happy issue of a long and painful contest I most cordially participate with you in the general Joy and earnestly join my wishes with yours for the future prosperity and happiness of our Country. The repeated proofs of unabated valour and perseverance which I have been

<sup>45</sup> The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

<sup>46</sup> Of New Jersey.

<sup>47</sup> In the *Washington Papers* under date of Nov. 7, 1783.

witness to in the Officers and Militia of the County of Somerset demand from me the acknowledgements which, for the last time, I have now the honor of making you, and as your Zeal in the field and in the services of your Country cannot fail to endear you to your fellow Citizens It is with much pleasure that in taking my final leave of you I can with the purest sincerity add this last testimony in your favor.

I now bid you Gentlemen a long farewell in the fullest confidence that Men who have so bravely defended their Country, will likewise in their peaceable retirements contribute their best endeavours to confirm and perpetuate that happy Union of the States and its Citizens which under Providence has so visibly been the means of our deliverance and Independance.<sup>48</sup>

#### TO BARBÉ-MARBOIS

Rocky Hill, November 7, 1783.

Sir: Mr. Frondeville President of the Parliament of Normandy has transmitted me the inclosed Letter, with a desire that I would convey it to Mr. Lambert. I have some reason to suppose that Gentlemen to be at Philadelphia, and shall be much obliged to you to inform me whether I may assure Mr. frondeville of the letter being delivered to its address. With much regard etc.<sup>49</sup>

#### TO BARON STEUBEN

Rocky Hill, November 8, 1783.

Dear Sir: I have been favored with your two Letters, the former inclosing sundry Discharges which were signed and

<sup>48</sup>The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

<sup>49</sup>In the writing of Benjamin Walker. From the original in the *Paris Archives, Aff. Etrang., Mems. et Docs., E. U.*, vol. 6.

returned to you immediately; the latter enclosing a Certificate for Jno. Sloan, which is now returned with my certificate of his being entitled to the Pension.

I will request Genl. Lincon to take measures for having those Invalids who are to go to West Point conveyed thither by water; this may be easily done, as Vessels must be constantly going to New York from whence there are daily Opportunities to West Point; but as General Lincoln is going himself to the Eastward it may require somebody to press the Execution of any directions he may send to the War Office in Philadelphia; and as it is a matter in which humanity is interested I make no apology for requesting you my Dr Sir, to take this task upon yourself. With respect to those who cannot be removed, or who will even be in capable of taking care of themselves, let me request you to make the best provision for them you can, either by making an agreement for their reception into the Hospital, or any other way you may think best; such of them as are entitled to the pension may have their Certificates signed as I pass Philadelphia.

The Men who go by Water to West point should go in charge of some Officer, to procure a passage for them from New York. I expected to have had the pleasure of your Company on my Journey to West point <sup>50</sup> but the sudden adjournment of Congress <sup>51</sup> before the time they had fixed on, hastens me and prevents my giving you timely Notice of my departure, as I have been detained these two days by the Quarter Master, and do not set out 'till tomorrow morning. <sup>52</sup>

<sup>50</sup> Washington's route to West Point was by way of Brunswick, Elizabethtown, Second River Ferry, Hackensack, Tappan, and Kings Ferry to West Point.

<sup>51</sup> November 4.

<sup>52</sup> The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.



## TO THE SECRETARY AT WAR

Rocky Hill, November 8, 1783.

Dr. Sir: I am favored with your Letter of yesterday respecting Mr. Taulman<sup>33</sup> of the Sappers and Miners.

I am not able to give any positive opinion whether or not that Gentleman is entitled to the Commission he solicits. The very small number of Men in the Corps, rendered it not necessary to fill any Vacancies in the Officers; his claim therefore, must rest on what has been the practice in the Corps in similar cases, which I do not recollect; if promotions have been made in it in consequence of vacancies, doubtless Mr. Taulman is entitled to the same favor which has been shewn to others.

In consequence of your Letter to me on the Subject of the Invalids, I ordered an Inspection of them; many have been discharged, with and without the Pension; there remains those who chuse to go to West Point and some who cannot be removed. I have to request you to give directions for procuring a passage for the former, and the latter I have requested Baron Steuben to provide for in the best manner he can. I enclose you my letter to the Baron, which, after perusal, you will please to Seal and forward. I am, etc.<sup>34</sup>

\*INSTRUCTIONS TO  
LIEUTENANT BEZALEEL HOWE

Rocky Hill, November 9, 1783.

Sir: You will take charge of the Waggon which contain my Baggage; and with the Escort, proceed with them to Virginia, and deliver them at my House ten miles below Alexandria.

<sup>33</sup>Capt.-Lieut. Peter Taulman.

<sup>34</sup>The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

As you know they contain all my Papers, which are of immense value to me, I am sure it is unnecessary to request your particular attention to them; but as you will have several Ferries to pass, and some of them wide, particularly the Susquehanna and Potomack, I must caution you against crossing them, if the Wind should be high, or if there is, in your own judgment, or the opinion of others, the least danger.

The Waggon should never be without a Sentinal over them; always locked and the Keys in your possession.

You will make such arrangements for the march with Colo. Morgan,<sup>85</sup> at this place, and Mr. Hodgden <sup>86</sup> at Philadelphia, as may be necessary under all circumstances; especially with respect to the expence, failure of Horses, and breaking of Waggon.

Your Route will be through Philadelphia and Wilmington, thence by the Head of Elk to the lower Ferry on the Susquehanna, and thence through Baltimore, Bladensburgh, George Town, and Alexandria to Mount Vernon.

You will enquire of Mr. Hodgden, and Colo. Biddle if Mrs. Washington left anything in their care to be forwarded by the waggon to Virginia; if she did, and you find room for it, let it be carried, if there is not desire them to send it by some other good opportunity.

The Waggon and teams, after the Baggage is delivered is to be surrendered to the order of Colo. Pickering which has I believe been handed to Mr. Roberts; and is, to deliver them to Colo. Fitzgerald to be sold.

The Bundle which contains my Accts. you will be careful of and deliver them at the Financiers Office with the Letter addressed to him; that is to Mr. Morris.

<sup>85</sup> Col. George Morgan.

<sup>86</sup> Samuel Hodgdon (Hodgden). He was assistant quartermaster.

The other small bundle you will deliver to Mr. Cottringer in Chesnut Street.

Doctr. McHenry's Trunk and parcels you will, (as I suppose he has already directed) leave at his House in Baltimore.

You will have the Tents, which are occupied by the Guard, delivered to Colo. Morgan, whose receipt for them will be a voucher for you, to the Qr Mr Genl; the remainder of the Guard, under the care of a good Sergeant, with very strict orders to prevent every kind of abuse to the Inhabitants on the march, is to be conducted to their Corps at West point.<sup>87</sup>

TO THE MINISTER, ELDERS, AND DEACONS OF THE  
TWO UNITED DUTCH REFORMED CHURCHES OF  
HACKENSACK AND SCHALENBURGH AND THE  
INHABITANTS OF HACKENSACK

November 10, 1783.

Gentn.: Your affectionate congratulations on the happy conclusion of the War, and the glorious prospect now opening to this extensive Country, cannot but be extremely satisfactory to me.<sup>88</sup>

Having shared in common, the hardships and dangers of the War with my virtuous fellow Citizens in the field, as well as with those who on the Lines have been immediately exposed to the Arts and Arms of the Enemy, I feel the most lively sentiments of gratitude to that divine Providence which has graciously interposed for the protection of our Civil and Religious Liberties.

In retiring from the field of Contest to the sweets of private life, I claim no merit, but if in that retirement my most earnest

<sup>87</sup> The instructions sent were in the writing of Benjamin Walker and vary from the above in insignificant details only. They are in the New York Historical Society.

<sup>88</sup> The address of the ministers *et al.*, dated Nov. 10, 1783, is in the *Washington Papers*.

wishes and prayers can be of any avail, nothing will exceed the prosperity of our common Country, and the temporal and spiritual felicity of those who are represented in your Address.<sup>59</sup>

#### TO THE MILITIA OFFICERS OF BERGEN COUNTY<sup>60</sup>

Hackensack, November 10, 1783.

Gentn: I participate most sincerely in the joy you express at the conclusion of the War, and the re-establishment of the blessings of Peace.<sup>61</sup>

Persuaded of the rectitude of our cause, and relying on the divine aid for its success, I accepted an arduous employment, the event has justified my most enlarged expectation; and if to the consciousness of having attempted faithfully to discharge my duty, I may add the approbation of my fellow Citizens, my happiness will be compleat.

To you, Gentn., who have experienced in no small degree the fatigues of a Military life, I must return these my last public thanks for the chearful and able assistance you have often afforded me. May you, as a reward of your virtuous conduct, enjoy the uninterrupted fruits of that Independence which has been procured at the hazard of our Lives.<sup>62</sup>

#### \*TO SIR GUY CARLETON

West Point, November 14, 1783.

Sir: I had the honor, Yesterday, to receive by Majr. Beckwith<sup>63</sup> your Excellencys favor of the 12th. To day, I will see the Governor of this State, and concert with him the necessary

<sup>59</sup> The draft is in the writing of David Cobb.

<sup>60</sup> New Jersey.

<sup>61</sup> The address of the officers, dated Nov. 10, 1783, is in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>62</sup> Maj. George Beckwith, aide to Carleton.

arrangements for taking possession of the City of New York and other Posts mentioned in your letter at the times therein specified; for the information of which you will please to accept my thanks. I have the honor etc.

TO JAMES DUANE

Poukeepsie, November 15, 1783.

Dear Sir: I am extremely happy to have it in my power to inform you, that Sir Guy Carleton has announced to me his intention, to relinquish the Posts he holds on York Island from Kings bridge to McGowens pass inclusive, on the 21st. Instant, Herricks & Hampstead with all to the Eastward on Long Island, on the same day, and if possible to give up the City with Brooklyn on the day following; and Paulus hook, Denyces, and Staten Island as soon after as practicable.

Should no material accident happen to retard them, I hope to have the pleasure of congratulating you on the full possession of this State by its Government, before the close of this Month. I have the honor etc.

[My best respects to Mrs. Duane, and to the good family where you are.]<sup>83</sup>

[N. Y. H. S.]

TO GOVERNOR JOHN HANCOCK

West Point, November 15, 1783.

Dear Sir: The very favorable opinion you are pleased to entertain of my public conduct, and the kind expressions of personal friendship you have had the goodness to repeat in your Letter of the 15th Ulto. could not fail to receive my warmest

<sup>83</sup>In the writing of Benjamin Walker. The sentence in brackets is in the writing of Washington.

This same letter, with variations, was sent to Robert R. Livingston and Philip Schuyler.

acknowledgments; had not the higher Motives of esteem and attachment already rivited my affections to you. Accept my best thanks for the present *testimony* of your regard, which is made more acceptable by the happy occasion.

Actuated, as we are, by the same anxious concern for the interest, the dignity and happiness of our Country, I was extremely pleased with the patriotic sentiments contained in your Excellencys Speech at the opening of the present session of your Legislature, as well as with the subsequent communication to them. Nor was I less satisfied with the happy effect of those sentiments in producing a compliance with the requisitions of Congress: a measure strongly tending to revive the expiring reputation and credit of the Nation. Would to Heaven that the Legislatures of all the States might be inspired by a similar disposition to candour in discussion and rectitude in decision, before it shall be to late!

Be persuaded, my dear Sir, that my wishes and prayers will ever be most ardent for the health and happiness of your Excellency, and for the prosperity of the Commonwealth over which you preside. With sentiments of unalterable respect etc.<sup>64</sup>

#### TO GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

West Point, November 15, 1783.

[Dear Sir:] By this opportunity your Excellency will receive the requests of the pay Master and Q. Master Generals for the Loan of One Thousand Dollars each to enable them to supply the present necessities of the Army; if the terms of their proposals are agreeable, I should be very happy in your Excellency's compliance with their requests. I have the honor, etc.<sup>65</sup>

<sup>64</sup>The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

<sup>65</sup>From a contemporary copy in an unidentified hand.

## TO MAJOR JOSEPH PETTINGILL

West Point, November 17, 1783.

Sir: I have received your Letter of the 14 Instant. It is undoubtedly just that you should receive the same compensation<sup>66</sup> that others have for the like services; but I cannot recollect that any extraordinary pay was ever allowed to Officers for the Services you mention. On the contrary, it has generally been considered as an agreeable duty, as it afforded the Officers employed in it, an opportunity to remain with or near their families. I am, etc.<sup>67</sup>

## TO CHEVALIER DE LA LUZERNE

West Point, November 17, 1783.

Sir: I have received a Letter from Sir Guy Carleton dated the 12th. inst. at New York, of which the following is an extract.

The preparations for withdrawing his Majesties Troops from this place are so far advanced, that, unless some untoward accident should intervene I hope it may be accomplished some days before the end of the Month; in all events, I propose to relinquish Posts at King's Bridge and as far as McGowan's pass inclusive on this Island, on the 21st instant; to resign the possession of Herricks and Hempstead with all to the Eastward on Long Island on the same day; to give up this City with Brooklyn, if possible on the day following; and Paulus Hook, Denyces, and Staten Island, as soon after as may be practicable.

This intelligence I considered of so interesting a nature that I could not resist the pleasure of communicating it to your Excellency, and of taking the opportunity to subscribe myself with the most perfect consideration etc.<sup>68</sup>

<sup>66</sup>Pettingill's claim was for extra compensation while on recruiting duty in Boston in 1782.

<sup>67</sup>The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

<sup>68</sup>In the writing of David Humphreys. From the original in the *Paris Archives, Aff. Etang., Mems. et Docr., E. U.*, vol. 6.

This same letter was sent to Peter John van Berckel.

## TO CAPTAIN JONATHAN LAWRENCE, JUNIOR

West Point, November 17, 1783.

Sir: It gives me real uneasiness when I am unable to afford any assistance in a case that seems evidently to bear very hard on an individual who merits extremely well of the public. In this predicament I now find myself with regard to the situation you have described in your Letter of the 11 Instant for having already declined to interfere in a similar instance I could not comply with the present application without the imputation of partiality, did not the same reasons that operated then still prevail. I will candidly inform you it was my opinion that an Officer totally disconnected with the service by resignation could not be entitled to any of the emoluments that might afterwards accrue in the course of it; and that a deviation from this rule would establish a precedent to which no limit could be set; but if Congress should think otherwise I shall not be less pleased in your availing yourself of the circumstance, as I know the ill State of your health as well as your peculiar situation in other respects carry a strong recommendation with them. With great regard I am etc.<sup>66</sup>

## TO SIMEON DE WITT

November 17, 1783.

Sir: I am favored with your Letter of yesterday. the nature of your Office being such as that Congress may possibly still have occasion for you, I cannot think myself at liberty to grant the Discharge you request; but circumstanced as you are I would advise that you make a final application to that Body, to

<sup>66</sup>In the writing of Benjamin Walker. This letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, no. 78, vol. XIV, fol. 559.



know whether they are inclined to comply with your former application or whether they have any further occasion for your services.<sup>70</sup>

To JOSEPH CARLETON<sup>71</sup>

November 18, 1783.

Sir: I have reced your Letter of the 12th Instant. No. Arrangements have taken place in consequence of the Resolution of 26th September, other than the discharge of a great many Men whose times have been expired or near expiring, and many Sick and Invalids as the late returns will shew. The last Weekly return is inclosed for your information.

Sheldons Cavalry, who have all been on furlough are discharged from the 20th of this Month and so soon as the British are gone a very considerable reduction, of the troops now here, will take place.<sup>72</sup>

To THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE

West Point, November 18, 1783.

Sir: I have the satisfaction to congratulate you on the near approach of the evacuation of New York, the enclosed Copy of a Letter from Sir Guy Carleton will give you all the information I am possessed of on the subject.

Knowing, as I do, the embarrassed state of our Finances, I should not at this time have troubled you with the representation<sup>73</sup> of the Officers now in service, had not a sense of their extreme distress overcome every other consideration. With an

<sup>70</sup>The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

On November 17 Washington granted a certificate of service to David Brooks, Assistant Clothier General. This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>71</sup>Secretary to the Secretary of War.

<sup>72</sup>The representation, a copy of which was sent to Morris, is dated Nov. 17, 1783, and is signed by Maj. Gen. John Paterson, Col. M[ichael] Jackson, and Lieut. Col. E[benazer] Sprout, and is in the *Washington Papers*. It petitioned for their arrears of pay.

earnest recommendation of their circumstances, I submit the practicability of complying with the proposal; but at the same time I must inform that, as soon as the event mentioned in the former part of the Letter shall have taken place, I shall reduce the force in this quarter very considerably, which will lessen the public expenditures in the same proportion, and I should hope would enable you to pay some attention to the enclosed representation.<sup>73</sup>

### TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

West Point, November 18, 1783.

Sir: I have at length the pleasure to inform your Excellency and Congress, that Sir Guy Carleton has fixed upon the time at which he proposes to evacuate the City of New York; the particulars are more fully explain'd in his Letter of the 12 instant a Copy of which, together with my answer are inclosed.<sup>74</sup> I have the honor etc.<sup>75</sup>

### TO MARQUIS DE FRONDEVILLE<sup>76</sup>

West Point, November 18, 1783.

Sir: I had not the pleasure to receive your Letter of the 15 May untill the 7th. of this Month, and the same day I transmitted the Letter for Mr. Lambert to the Consull General of France to deliver to that Gentleman who I understood was then in Philadelphia; but by the inclosed answer of Mr. Marbois it

<sup>73</sup>The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

On December 3 Washington sent a copy of Morris's reply (dated November 27) to Paterson, Jackson, and Sprout. This draft is in the *Washington Papers*, as is the original of Morris's letter.

<sup>74</sup>Copies of Carleton's letter of November 12 and Washington's reply of November 14 are filed with the letter from Washington. The original of Carleton's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>75</sup>In the writing of Benjamin Walker. The letter was read in Congress on December 13.

<sup>76</sup>President of the Parliament of Normandy, France.

seems Mr. Lambert had already left this Country, the Letter is therefore inclosed.

It was unfortunate for Mr Lambert that he arrived at a time when all Military Operations were about to cease, had this not been the case I should have been happy in paying every attention to the Recommendations he brought, and rendering him every service in my power. I have the honor, etc.<sup>77</sup>

### PROCLAMATION

West Point, November 20, 1783.

Whereas at the time when the Troops who were engaged for the War were furloughed, the Men enlisted to serve three Years in the Legionary Corps commanded by Colonel Sheldon were permitted to be absent from the Army for a limited time; and whereas, from the circumstances which have since intervened, their farther services may be dispensed with, without detriment to the Public. In virtue of a Resolution of Congress authorizing me thereunto, I do therefore direct and Command that the said Non-Commissioned Officers, and Private Soldiers enlisted to serve three years in the Legionary Corps Commanded by Col Sheldon shall be from the present day discharged, they are hereby discharged from all further Service in the Armies of the United States.<sup>78</sup>

### TO SIR GUY CARLETON

Harlem, November 22, 1783.

Sir: I have been honored with your Excellency Letter of the 19th inst.<sup>79</sup> and for a reply to the propositions contained in it I

<sup>77</sup>The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

<sup>78</sup>The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

<sup>79</sup>In the *Washington Papers*. It says, in part, that Paulus [Powles] Hook would be evacuated on November 22, but despite every effort New York could not be abandoned

must beg leave to refer you to His Excellency Govr Clinton, who will inform you by this conveyance, that the Council instituted for the temporary government of the<sup>80</sup> State, has acceded to your reservations in full confidence that the embarkation will be expedited as much as the circumstances will admit.

With regard to the information that a deliberate combination has been formed to plunder the City of New York,<sup>81</sup> I have to observe, that the intelligence appears to me not to be well founded; at least no intimations of the kind had ever before come to my knowledge; and I can assure your Excellency, such arrangements have been made, as will, in my opinion not only utterly discountenance, but effectually prevent any outrage or disorder, unless the evacuation should be delayed until a much larger number of People shall be collected from the Country than have been assembled as yet for the purpose of going into Town on its being relinquished by your Troops, in which case the difficulty of establishing Civil Government and maintaining good order may be greatly increased.

[Lt Colo Walker will have the honor to deliver this letter to your Excellency and to assure you of the respectful consideration with which I am, &c.]<sup>82</sup>

on the intended date. "If I have proper assurances that we shall retain a free and uninterrupted use of the Ship-yard and Halletts Wharf, in New York, and the Brewery and Bake House on Long Island, (which the Admiral represents as indispensably necessary for the Shipping and sick Seamen) until we can be ready to take our final departure, I shall retire from this City and from Brooklyn on tuesday next at noon, or as soon after as wind and weather may permit, on retaining (in addition to the reservations above specified) Staten Island, with Denyses, New Utrecht and the circumjacent District on Long Island, for such time as may be found absolutely requisite for the troops that may then remain unprovided with transports."

<sup>80</sup>At this point the draft has interlined "So. district."

<sup>81</sup>The plot of which Carleton warned Washington was stated to be formed by William Dewees (or Dewit). A family of Webbers who lived at the house "of one Hopper," about "four miles off," were suspected also.

<sup>82</sup>The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys. The part in brackets is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

On November 24 Carleton again wrote to Washington: "Agreeable to the Notification given You in my Letter of the 22d. instant, I purpose to withdraw from this place tomorrow at Noon, by which time I conclude your troops will be near the Barrier. The Guards from the Redoubts and on the East River shall be first withdrawn; but an

TO THE MINISTERS, ELDERS, DEACONS, AND  
MEMBERS OF THE REFORMED GERMAN  
CONGREGATION OF NEW YORK

New York, November 27, 1783.

Gentlemen: The illustrious and happy event on which you are pleased to congratulate and wellcome me to this City, demands all our gratitude; while the favorable sentiments you have thought proper to express of my conduct, intitles you to my warmest acknowledgements.<sup>83</sup>

Disposed, at every suitable opportunity to acknowledge publicly our infinite obligations to the Supreme Ruler of the Universe for rescuing our Country from the brink of destruction; I cannot fail at this time to ascribe all the honor of our late successes to the same glorious Being. And if my humble exertions have been made in any degree subservient to the execution of the divine purposes, a contemplation of the benediction of Heaven on our righteous Cause, the approbation of my virtuous Countrymen, and the testimony of my own Conscience, will be a sufficient reward and augment my felicity beyond anything which the world can bestow.

The establishment of Civil and Religious Liberty was the Motive which induced me to the Field; the object is attained, and it now remains to be my earnest wish and prayer, that the Citizens of the United States would make a wise and virtuous use of the blessings, placed before them; and that the reformed german Congregation in New York; may not only be conspicuous for their religious character, but as exemplary, in support

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Officer will be sent out to give information to your advanced Guard when the Troops move." Carleton's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

The British left behind them 22 pieces of ordnance, from 6 to 32 pounders, at the various posts of Fort Washington and Tryon, at Laurel Hill, the Grand Battery, Denises, Long Island, Powles Hook, and Brooklyn.

<sup>83</sup>The address of the ministers *et al.*, dated New York, Nov. 27, 1783, is signed "Johann Daniel Gros V. D. Minister."

of our inestimable acquisitions, as their reverend Minister has been in the attainment of them."<sup>4</sup>

TO THE CITIZENS OF NEW YORK WHO HAVE  
RETURNED FROM EXILE

New York, November 27, 1783.

Gentlemen: I thank you sincerely for your affectionate Address,"<sup>5</sup> and entreat you to be persuaded that nothing could be more agreeable to me than your polite congratulations: Permit me, in turn, to felicitate you on the happy repossession of your City."<sup>6</sup>

Great as your joy must be on this pleasing occasion, it can scarcely exceed that which I feel, at seeing you, Gentlemen, who from the noblest Motives have suffered voluntary Exile of Many Years, return again in peace and triumph to enjoy the fruits of your virtuous conduct.

The fortitude and perseverance which you and your suffering Brethren have exhibited in the course of the War, have not only endeared you to your Countrymen, but will be remembered with admiration and applause to the latest posterity.

May the tranquility of your City be perpetual; May the ruins soon be repaired; Commerce flourish; Science be fostered, and all the civil and social virtues be cherished, in the same illustrious manner, which formerly reflected so much credit on the Inhabitants of New York; in fine, may every species of felicity attend you Gentlemen and your worthy fellow Citizens."<sup>7</sup>

<sup>4</sup>The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

<sup>5</sup>The address, dated Nov. 22, 1783, is in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>6</sup>In Rivington's *New York Gazette* for Nov. 26, 1783, is an account of the entry of the American troops into New York City.

<sup>7</sup>Expences on the Journey from West point to N York &c. with Comr in Chief. Paid: At Pugsleys, 1 Dollars; ferriage at Tarry Town for Dragoons & Horses, 10; At Hunts Tavern, 2½; At Haerlem for servants, 4; At N York for Paper Quills &c. 2. Recd of H E Gl. Washington at Tarry Town, a double Louis, 9. Due me, 10½ B Walker." This memorandum is in the *Washington Papers*.

TO THE MARINE SOCIETY OF  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

New York, November 29, 1783.

Gentlemen: I consider myself highly honored by the polite attention shewn me in your address, and the too partial manner in which you are pleased to express your sense of my public and private conduct, at the same time I have the pleasure to assure the Corporation that I am extremely happy in becoming a member of their humane and excellent Institution.<sup>67</sup>

To have conducted as a Nation with so much dignity and propriety thro' the unparrallel'd difficulties and dangers of an arduous contest, to have accomplished our fondest wishes, and to have fixed the Liberties of this Country upon the broad and permanent Basis of Independence will even reflect the truest glory on the patriots of the present age, and afford the amplest field of description for the future Historian.

It would be a mark of great insensibility in me not to partake in the public Joy, or not to derive an unusual degree of satisfaction from the approbation of good Men and Lovers of their Country. Believe me Gentlemen! I shall return to private life impressed with the most pleasing sensations. A recollection of the happy scene to which I have lately been a Witness, will attend me in my solitary Walks, and cheer me in the shade of retirement.<sup>68</sup>

TO ANDREW ELLIOT

New York, December 1, 1783.

Sir: Upon the receipt of your letter respecting Mrs. Jauncey,<sup>69</sup> I did myself the pleasure of waiting upon that Lady, and beg

<sup>67</sup> The certificate of membership is in the *Washington Papers*, as is the address of the Society, dated Nov. 27, 1783, to which the above is the answer.

<sup>68</sup> The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

<sup>69</sup> Mrs. James Jauncey, jr. She was Judge Elliot's daughter.

you to be persuaded that I shall be happy in occasions of rendering her any service which may be in my power.

I am confident, Sir, it must give you great satisfaction to be informed, that the most perfect regularity and good Order prevail in this City, and that every description of People find themselves under the protection of the Laws of the State.

Wishing you a safe passage and an agreeable sight of your friends, I remain etc.<sup>90</sup>

### TO THE FREEHOLDERS AND INHABITANTS OF KINGS COUNTY

New York, December 1, 1783.

Gentlemen: While you speak the language of my heart, in acknowledging the magnitude of our obligations to the Supreme Director of all human events; suffer me to join you in celebration of the present glorious and evermemorable *Æra*, and to return my best thanks for your kind expressions in my favour.<sup>91</sup>

I cannot but rejoice sincerely that the national dignity and glory will be greatly encreased, in consequence of the good order and regularity which have prevailed universally since the City of New York has been repossessed by us; this conduct exhibits to the world a noble instance of magnanimity and will doubtless convince any who from ignorance or prejudice may have been of a different sentiment; that the Laws do govern, and that the Civil Magistrates are worthy of the highest respect and confidence.

For my own part, Gentlemen, in whatever situation I shall be hereafter, my supplications, will ever ascend to Heaven, for

<sup>90</sup>The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

<sup>91</sup>The address, dated Nov. 27, 1783, is in the *Washington Papers*.



the prosperity of my Country in general; and for the individual happiness of those who are attached to the Freedom, and Independence of America.<sup>92</sup>

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE VOLUNTEER ASSOCIATION AND OTHER INHABITANTS OF THE KINGDOM OF IRELAND WHO HAVE LATELY ARRIVED IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

New York, December 2, 1783.

Gentlemen: The testimony of your satisfaction at the glorious termination of the late contest, and your indulgent opinion of my Agency in it, affords me singular pleasure and merit my warmest acknowledgment.<sup>93</sup>

If the Example of the Americans successfully contending in the Cause of Freedom, can be of any use to other Nations; we shall have an additional Motive for rejoicing at so prosperous an Event.

It was not an uninteresting consideration, to learn, that the Kingdom of Ireland, by a bold and manly conduct had obtained the redress of many of its greivances; and it is much to be wished that the blessings of equal Liberty and unrestrained Commerce may yet prevail more extensively; in the mean time, you may be assured, Gentlemen, that the Hospitality and Beneficence of your Countrymen, to our Brethren who have been Prisoners of War, are neither unknown, or unregarded.

<sup>92</sup> The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

On December 1 Washington wrote a brief introductory letter to Benjamin Franklin and Marquis de Lafayette, introducing Mr. Platt and his wife. The "Letter Book" copy of this is in the *Washington Papers*.

Also, on this same date (December 1) certificates of service were granted to Capt. John Lillie, Major Caleb Gibbs, and Elijah Hunter. The drafts of these are in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>93</sup> The address, dated Dec. 2, 1783, is in the *Washington Papers*.

The bosom of America is open to receive not only the Opu-  
lent and respectable Stranger, but the oppressed and persecuted  
of all Nations And Religions; whom we shall wellcome to a  
participation of all our rights and privileges, if by decency and  
propriety of conduct they appear to merit the enjoyment.<sup>94</sup>

### TO SIR GUY CARLETON

New York, December 2, 1783.

Sir: I have received your favor of Yesterday's date, announc-  
ing the time of your departure;<sup>95</sup> and sincerely wish that your  
Excellency, with the Troops under your Orders, may have a  
safe and pleasant passage. I have the honor, etc.<sup>96</sup>

### TO CHARLES PETTIT

New York, December 2, 1783.

Dear Sir: I have been favored with your letter of the 28th.  
Ulto. The honor which the Merchants of Philada. have in con-  
templation to shew me,<sup>98</sup> is very flattering, and deserving of my  
best acknowledgments. I expect to leave this place on Thurs-  
day afternoon or Friday morning, and to be in Philada. on  
Monday: but as there may be an intervention of circumstances  
not altogether within my controul, I cannot speak positively to  
the day; and have only given this information in conformity  
to your wishes. I am, etc.<sup>97</sup>

<sup>94</sup>The draft is in the writing of David Tumpreys.

<sup>95</sup>"If wind and weather permit, I hope we shall be able to embark the Remainder of  
His Majesty's Troops from Long Island and Staten Island, and take our final depar-  
ture on the 4th. Instant."—*Carleton to Washington*, Dec. 1, 1783. Carleton's letter is  
in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>96</sup>The merchants of Philadelphia wished to give a dinner to Washington when he  
passed through the city on his way to Annapolis.

<sup>97</sup>From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

## TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

New York, December 3, 1783.

Sir: In my last Letter to your Excellency I had the honor to acquaint Congress with the arrangement Sir Guy Carleton had made for the Evacuation of New York on the 23 Ultó., I have now to inform you that the Embarkation was postponed two days on account of the badness of the Weather.

On the 25 of November the British Troops left this City and a Detachment of our Army marched into it. The Civil Power was immediately put in possession, and I have the happiness to assure you that the most perfect regularity and good order have prevailed ever since; on which pleasing events I congratulate your Excellency and Congress.

A Copy of the last letter I have reced from Sir Guy Carleton is inclosed. With the highest respect etc.

P. S. Your favor of the 23 Ultó. is just come to hand.\*\*

## TO GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

New York, December 3, 1783.

Sir: I do myself the honor to inclose to your Excellency Copy of a Letter from Generals McDougall Clinton and Cortlandt, in favor of Major Hamtramck.

My knowledge of that Officer is such, as makes the task of recommending him to the notice of the Government of this State, extremely pleasing, being assured that if it shall be in their power to favor his views his conduct will always justify any appointment that may be given him. I have the honor etc.\*\*

\*In the writing of Benjamin Walker.

\*\*The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

TO WILLIAM DUKE MOORE<sup>1</sup>

New York, December 3, 1783.

Sir: Mrs. Bingham<sup>2</sup> has done me the honor to deliver me your Letter of the 15 March with the Seal you have been so polite as to present to me and for which you will please to accept my thanks.<sup>3</sup> I could only wish the object had been more worthy the great talents shewn in the invention and execution of the Seal. You will however believe that I feel myself extremely flattered by this mark of attention and that I am, etc.<sup>4</sup>

## TO MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

New York, December 3, 1783.

Sir: The United States in Congress assembled having invested me with the power of arranging the Troops now in service in such manner as may consist with the public good, I have therefore to communicate to you my ideas on the Subject, and commit to your discretion the execution of this business; (except in such points as are particularly mentioned hereafter).

In the first place it [is my] design, that all the Inf[antry in the] Service of the United [States, should] be reduced to one [Corps consisting] of 500 R and F properly Officered, that these Men should be selected generally from those who have the longest term to serve, and that the remainder should be discharged as soon as the circumstances will permit. In the

<sup>1</sup>Of Dublin, Ireland.

<sup>2</sup>Mrs. Ann Bingham, wife of Capt. Charles Bingham, of the One Hundred and Fifth Regiment, Volunteers of Ireland, British Army. Her letter, dated Nov. 27, 1783, is in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>3</sup>Moore's letter is in the *Washington Papers*. In it the seal is described as "your Excellency in Front, Trampling on the late Enemy of your Country, pointing to a Ship Underway departing from the Coast, with your Face at the same time turned to your Army, expressing the Motto by Virtue and Valour."

<sup>4</sup>The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

next instance the mode of appointing Officers is to be attended to. I have thought proper to nominate and appoint,

as the Field Officers to be employed in this Service, and I would recommend that the appointment of the other Officers should [be] by agreement if possible; if other-[wise] by seniority, or in any other mode which shall be deemed more convenient to the Gentlemen concerned, and more eligible for the public Interest. Tho I am not authorized to promise any particular encouragement to the Officers who remain in Service, yet it appears evident to me, that, in case there should be any Peace Establishment, their claim for employment will be greater than that of any other Gentleman whatever.

The present Corps of Artillery, may be reformed and arranged in Companies, upon the bef[ore ment]ioned principles, or at any [rate, no more] Officers should be r[etained than are] necessary to comma[nd the men] actually in service. The purpose for which these troops are retained, is, for the securi[ty of the Post] and Stores at West point and its dependances and the Stores in general at ot[her places,] and the Block-hou[se at Fort] Schuyler; with respect to the latter I have mentioned my idea[s to the Governor,] and advised his keeping an Offr and 20 of the State Troops for it's sec[urity 'till you] can relieve them, which I wish you to do as soon as y[ou conveniently]\* can after the Arrangement has taken place.

The exhausted state of our Finances presses for a diminution of public Expences at as early a period as may be; you will therefore be pleased to advise with his Excellency the Govr. of this State, and agree upon the earliest time when the reduction

\*The draft is mutilated and the words in brackets have been supplied from the Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

of the Troops may take place, without detriment to the Posts and Stores committed to their charge; after which you will cause the arrangement immediately to be carried into effect.\*

TO MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

New York, December 3, 1783.

Sir: The splendid display of Fire works last Evening was so highly satisfactory that I must request you to present to Captain Price<sup>7</sup> under whose direction they were prepared, and to the Officers who assisted him, my thanks for the great skill and attention shewn in the conduct of that business. I am etc.<sup>8</sup>

[MS. H. S.]

TO HECTOR ST. JOHN DE CRÈVECŒUR<sup>9</sup>

New York, December 4, 1783.

Sir: I recd with the greatest satisfaction the Message you had the goodness to bring me from my friend the Marquis de la Fayette. Nothing could give me more pleasure than a sight of that amiable, disinterested, and patriotic Young Nobleman.

While the polite mode of your communication merits my acknowledgments, I take a pleasure in congratulating you on your appointment to be the Consul of his Most Christian Majesty for this State. I am etc.<sup>6</sup>

TO MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE

New York City, December 4, 1783.

My Dr. Marqs: Since I came to this place, which was evacuated by the British Forces, and taken possession of by our

<sup>6</sup>The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

<sup>7</sup>Capt. William Price, of the Corps of Artillery. He was Deputy Commissary of Ordnance and Military Stores in January, 1784, and served to March, 1787.

<sup>8</sup>In the writing of Benjamin Walker.

<sup>9</sup>French consul at New York.

Troops on the 25th. ulto., I have made a purchase of so many pieces of the plated Ware, as to render it unnecessary for you to comply with the request of my letter of the 30th. of October from Princeton by Majr. L'Enfant; and have to beg the favor of you to take no steps in consequence thereof. With the greatest truth, and most unfeigned regard, I am, etc.<sup>10</sup>

### TO MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

New York, December 4, 1783.

Dear Sir: Finding it essential to the public Interest that you should superintend the Posts and military affairs in this Department untill some farther Arrangement, or untill the pleasure of Congress shall be known; I have therefore to request that you will remain in Service, untill one of the foregoing events shall take place; in the meantime you will be pleased to pay particular attention to the enclosed Instructions respectg a reformation of the Army. With great regard etc.<sup>11</sup>

### TO THE CITIZENS OF NEW BRUNSWICK<sup>12</sup>

New Brunswick, December 6,<sup>13</sup> 1783.

Gentlemen: I receive with perfect satisfaction the Address of the Citizens of New Brunswick,<sup>14</sup> and acknowledge with great sensibility that their sentiments of my character and services are favorable beyond my fondest expectations.

If anything could add to my happiness, at the present auspicious period, it would be the testimony of esteem and veneration

<sup>10</sup>On December 4 Washington wrote a brief note of the same purport as above to Major L'Enfant, the "Letter Book" copy of which is in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>11</sup>The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

<sup>12</sup>New Jersey.

<sup>13</sup>This draft of the reply to the address of the citizens of Brunswick is dated December 5, but indorsed by Washington as of December 6.

<sup>14</sup>The address of the citizens, dated Dec. 6, 1783, is in the *Washington Papers*.

which you, Gentlemen, have just exhibited towards those Worthy and deserving Men who have so eminently contributed to the glorious termination of the War; and the protestation you have made of affording your influence and example, in rendering full and ample compensation for their important services. Altho I now am returning to a much wished for retirement, yet I cannot bid adieu to the Acquaintances and Connections I have formed while acting in a public character without experiencing a certain pleasing, melancholly sensation, pleasing because I leave my Country in the full possession of Liberty and Independence; Melancholly because I bid my friends a long, perhaps a last farewell.

You must permit me Gentlemen to return you my best thanks for your benevolent wishes, and to assure you that the prosperity of the Citizens of New Brunswick will ever afford me the sincerest pleasure.<sup>15</sup>

### TO THE LEGISLATURE OF NEW JERSEY

[Trenton], December 6, 1783.

Gentlemen: I want Words to express the heart-felt pleasure I experience on receiving the congratulation and plaudit of so respectable a Body, as the Legislature of the State of New Jersey.<sup>16</sup> I cannot however suppress the effusions of my gratitude for their flattering allusion to an event which hath signalized<sup>17</sup> the name of Trenton; for the delicate manner of their recalling to mind none but grateful ideas; as well as for all their former assistance at the period of our deepest distress.

<sup>15</sup>The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

<sup>16</sup>The address of the legislature is headed "The Address of the Governor Council and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey." It is dated Dec. 6, 1783, is signed by William Livingston as president of the council and Ephraim Harris as Speaker of the assembly, and is in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>17</sup>The draft has the word "immortalized," with the word "signalized" written above it.



I am heartily disposed to join with you, Gentlemen, in adoration to that all-wise and most gracious Providence which hath so conspicuously interposed in the direction of our public affairs and the establishment of our national Independence.

The faithful page of History, will I doubt not, record all the patriotic sufferings and meritorious Services of the gallant little Army I have had the honor to command; nor, (if my testimony and the voice of truth can avail anything), shall the efficacious exertions of the State of New Jersey, or the almost unrivalled bravery of its Militia ever be forgotten. Let the fact be made known to the whole world, let it be remembered forever as an example to succeeding Ages, that, after a large extent of Country had been overrun by a formidable Enemy, and thousands of Citizens driven from their possessions; the virtuous freedom of New Jersey, recovering from the temporary shock, stung by the remembrance of what their wives, their children and Friends had already suffered, by the thought of losing all they yet held dear and sacred, animated by an enthusiastic hope of success, and bouyed, by a reliance on the aid of Heaven, above the fear of danger and death itself then began to stem the tide of adversity; and, in concert with our other force, recoiling like an impetuous torrent on our lately victorious foes, confined them within narrow limits 'till compelled to take their final departure from the State. For me, it is enough to have seen the divine Arm visibly outstretched for our deliverance, and to have recd the approbation of my Country, and my Conscience on account of my humble instrumentality in carrying the designs of Providence into effect; but for my gallant Associates in the Field, who have so essentially contributed to the establishment of our Independence and national glory, no rewards can be too great.

I am now to bid you a long farewell, and to recommend, you Gentlemen, and the State whose wellfare you are appointed to

superintend, to the indulgent care of Heaven. May unanimity and wisdom ever prevail in your public Councils! May Justice and liberality distinguish the Administration of your Government! and may the Citizens of New Jersey be completely happy in the practice of Industry œconomy and every private Virtue.<sup>18</sup>

### TO THE MERCHANTS OF PHILADELPHIA

Philadelphia, December 9, 1783.

Gentlemen: The perfect establishment of American Independence is indeed an event of such infinite importance as to fill the mind with gratitude and Joy; and afford the fairest occasion for mutual congratulations.<sup>19</sup>

The honorable sentiments you are pleased to express respecting the Merits of the Army; the just idea you entertain of their bravery, sufferings and magnanimity; and the honest desire you manifest of making an adequate compensation for their Services; are circumstances highly satisfactory to me, as well as extremely flattering to the gallant Men who are more immediately concerned. And I must take the liberty to add, that the punctuality of the Merchants and other Citizens of Philadelphia in raising their proportion of Taxes for the support of the War, and their cheerfulness in affording every other assistance in their power, are marks of Patriotism which deserve the warmest acknowledgements.

<sup>18</sup>The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

While in New York Washington gave "An Entertainment" at Fraunces's Tavern (at which he seems to have lodged from November 26 to December 4, inclusive) on November 30, for which the bill was £ 35. This item is in Samuel Fraunces's bill, in the *Washington Papers*, under date of Nov. 26, 1783.

A description of Washington's farewell to his officers was printed in *Rivington's New York Gazette* on December 6.

According to a bill of expense dated Dec. 7, 1783, in the *Washington Papers*, the Commander in Chief was in Trenton on Dec. 6, 7, and 8, 1783. He reached Philadelphia about noon on December 8.

<sup>19</sup>The address of the merchants, dated Dec. 9, 1783, is in the *Washington Papers*. The merchants entertained the General at a dinner at the City Tavern on December 12.

I am happy in having one more opportunity of expressing the personal obligations I feel myself under to You Gentlemen, for your favorable opinion and for the present as well as for every former instance of your polite attention.

Having long since been convinced of the expediency and even necessity of rendering compleat justice to all the public Creditors; and having at the same time been impressed with a belief that the good sense of my Countrymen would ultimately induce them to comply with the requisitions of Congress. I could not avoid being greatly pleased with the Example set by the State of Pennsylvania; nor can I conceal my satisfaction at finding your sentiments coincide so exactly with my own. Let us flatter ourselves, that the day is not remote, when a wise and just system of policy will be adopted by every State in the Union; then will national faith be inviolably preserved, public credit durably established, the blessings of Commerce extensively diffused, and the reputation of our new-formed Empire supported with as much *Eclat* as has been acquired in laying the foundation of it.<sup>20</sup>

TO THE PRESIDENT AND THE SUPREME  
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF  
PENNSYLVANIA

[Philadelphia, December 9, 1783.]

Gentlemen: I am duly affected by the wellcome reception I have met with on my return to this City; and accept with unusual pleasure your Congratulation.<sup>21</sup>

But I feel myself particularly indebted to you Gentlemen, for that delicate, sensibility, which hath spared my feelings, and

<sup>20</sup> The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

<sup>21</sup> President John Dickinson's letter of congratulation for himself and the council, dated Dec. 9, 1783, is in the *Washington Papers*.

by suppressing your sentiments of my conduct, placed it in but too fair a point of light.

It is from a heart overflowing with gratitude for your past assistance and present politeness, that I reciprocate all your benevolent wishes.

While my farewell blessing thus attends you, permit me to give this last public testimony of the great respect and esteem with which I have the honor, etc.<sup>22</sup>

## TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

[December 9, 1783.]

Gentlemen: I consider the approbation of the Representatives of a free and virtuous People as the most enviable reward that can ever be conferred on a public Character.<sup>23</sup>

A sense of duty impelled me to contribute, whatever my Sword or my Pen could effect, towards the establishment of our Freedom and Independence. The smiles of Providence on the United exertions of my fellow Citizens have compleated our successes, and it remains to be my first and most earnest desire that the United States may profit by the happy occasion and preserve by wisdom and justice that liberty and honor they have so nobly maintained by Arms.

Anticipating the encreasing happiness and lustre of this growing Empire, I shall return to private life with a degree of Satisfaction more easily to be conceived than expressed.

As this is the last time I shall have the honor of seeing you Gentlemen in my Official character, I cannot bid you a final

<sup>22</sup>The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

<sup>23</sup>The address of the assembly, dated Dec. 9, 1783, is in the *Washington Papers*.

farewell, without acknowledging the assistance I have frequently derived from your State, and the pleasure I have lately recd from a contemplation of the illustrious Example of the Legislature in adopting the recommendations of Congress with so much promptness and unanimity. May the Representatives and Citizens of this Commonwealth continue to possess the same good dispositions, and may they be as happy in the enjoyment of Peace as it is possible for a wise, just, and united People to be.<sup>24</sup>

### TO MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE

Philadelphia, December 9, 1783.

My Dear Marqs: I have the honor of introducing to your acquaintance, Doct: Witherspoon, President of the College of New Jersey and the bearer of this letter. It is with pleasure I can recommend him to your notice, as a Gentleman well known on this side the water for his abilities and Literature; I therefore the more readily take the liberty of presenting him to you, as worthy of your civilities.

We have just now my Dear Friend closed the military scene by taking possession of New York. I am now on my way to Annapolis to lay my resignation before Congress, from thence I shall retire directly to Mount Vernon, where I anticipate the pleasing moment when I shall embrace My Dr. Marqs.; being with every sentiment of esteem your etc.<sup>25</sup>

<sup>24</sup>The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

<sup>25</sup>From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

On December 9 Washington wrote brief notes introducing John Witherspoon to Benjamin Franklin and Comte de Rochambeau. Copies of these notes are in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

On December 13 Washington wrote a similar note of introduction for Witherspoon to Duc de Lauzun. The "Letter Book" copy is in the *Washington Papers*.

## TO JAMES McHENRY

Philadelphia, December 10, 1783.

Dear Sir: After seeing the backs of the British Forces turned upon us, and the Executive of the State of New York put into peaceable possession of their Capitol, I set out for this place. On Monday next<sup>26</sup> I expect to leave the city, and by slow traveling arrive at Baltimore on Wednesday, where I will spend one day and then proceed to Annapolis and get translated into a private Citizen. I am &c.<sup>27</sup>

TO THE MILITIA OFFICERS OF THE CITY AND  
LIBERTIES OF PHILADELPHIA

Philadelphia, December 12, 1783.

Gentlemen: The honorable manner in which you are pleased to notice my return to this City, is particularly acceptable to me.<sup>28</sup>

It would have been a proof of the want of Patriotism and every social Virtue not to have assumed the character of a Soldier when the exigency of the Public demanded, or not to have returned to the Class of Citizens when the necessity of farther Service ceased to exist. I can therefore claim no merit beyond that of having done my duty with fidelity.

While the various Scenes of the War, in which I have experienced the timely aid of the Militia of Philadelphia, recur to my mind, my ardent prayer ascends to Heaven that they may long enjoy the blessings of that Peace which has been obtained by the divine benediction on our common exertions.<sup>29</sup>

<sup>26</sup> December 15, on which day Washington left Philadelphia.

<sup>27</sup> The text is from Ford.

<sup>28</sup> The address of militia officers, dated Dec. 12, 1783, is in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>29</sup> The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

TO THE MAGISTRATES OF THE CITY AND COUNTY  
OF PHILADELPHIA

Philadelphia, December 13, 1783.

Gentlemen: I have great occasion to be satisfied with the proofs you have now given of regard for my person, and approbation of my Services.<sup>80</sup>

Nothing could have been more proper on this occasion than to attribute our glorious successes in the manner you have done, to the bravery of our Troops, the assistance of our Ally and the interposition of Providence. Having by such means acquired the inestimable blessings of Peace Liberty and Independence; the preservation of these important acquisitions must now, in a great measure, be committed to an able and faithful Magistracy. May the tranquility and good order of the City and County in which you are called to act in that respectable character, continue to exhibit your Example as worthy of universal imitation.<sup>81</sup>

TO THE TRUSTEES AND FACULTY OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF  
PENNSYLVANIA

[Philadelphia, December 13, 1783.]

Gentlemen: I experience a singular satisfaction in receiving your congratulations on the establishment of Peace and the security of those important interests which were involved in the fate of the War.<sup>82</sup>

<sup>80</sup>The address of the magistrates, dated Dec. 13, 1783, is in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>81</sup>The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

<sup>82</sup>Two copies of the address of the trustees *et al.*, dated Dec. 13, 1783, are in the *Washington Papers*.

Desirous of being considered the friend, and (as far as consists with my abilities), The Patron of the Arts and Sciences; I must take the liberty of expressing my sense of the obligations I am under to the Trustees and Faculty of the University of Pennsylvania for paying me so flattering a Compliment,<sup>33</sup> and on so pleasing a subject.

I accept, Gentlemen, the honors you have had the goodness to confer upon me, with the greatest deference and respect.

May the Revolution prove extensively propitious to the cause of Literature; may the tender plants of Science which are cultivated by your assiduous care under the fostering influence of Heaven, soon arrive at an uncommon point of maturity and perfection, and may this University long continue to diffuse throughout an enlightened Empire, all the blessing of virtue, learning and urbanity.<sup>34</sup>

#### TO THE LEARNED PROFESSIONS OF PHILADELPHIA

[Philadelphia, December 13, 1783.]

Gentlemen: I entreat you to accept my grateful thanks for your affectionate Address;<sup>35</sup> and to be assured that the kindness and partiality of your sentiments respecting me, as well as the elegance and urbanity of your expressions, have made an impression on my mind never to be effaced.

Conscious of no impropriety in wishing to merit the esteem of my fellow Citizens in general; I cannot hesitate to acknowledge that I feel a certain pleasing sensation in obtaining the

<sup>33</sup>The degree of doctor of laws from the University of Pennsylvania, dated July 4, 1783, is in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>34</sup>The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

<sup>35</sup>The address of the learned professions is undated but filed in the *Washington Papers* under date of Dec. 13, 1783. It is signed "In behalf of the Clergy, Gentlemen of the Law and Physicians of the City of Philadelphia," by John Ewing, and 8 others.



good opinion of men eminent for their virtue, knowledge and humanity; but I am sensible at the same time, it becomes me to receive with humility the warm commendations you are pleased to bestow on my conduct: for if I have been led to detest the folly and madness of unbounded ambition, if I have been induced from other motives to draw my sword and regulate my public behaviour, or if the management of the War has been conducted upon purer principles: let me not arrogate the merit to human imbecility, but rather ascribe whatever glory may result from our successful struggle to a higher and more efficient Cause. For the re-establishment of our once violated rights; for the confirmation of our Independence; for the protection of Virtue, Philosophy and Literature: for the present flourishing state of the Sciences, and for the enlarged prospect of human happiness, it is our common duty to pay the tribute of gratitude to the greatest and best of Beings.

Tho the military Scene is now closed and I am hastening with unspeakable delight to the still and placid walks of domestic Life; yet even there will my Country's happiness be ever nearest to my heart, and, while I cherish the fond idea I shall still retain, a pleasing remembrance of the able support the Public has often received from the learned Professions; whose prosperity is so essential to the preservation of the Liberties, as well as the augmentation of the happiness and glory of this extensive Empire.<sup>88</sup>

#### TO THE AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

Philadelphia, December 13, 1783.

Gentlemen: While you recall to my mind the honor formerly done me by enrolling my name in the List of the Members of

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<sup>88</sup>The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

your Society, you greatly heighten the pleasure of your present congratulations.<sup>87</sup>

For if I know my own inclination, it is to be the friend and associate to men of Virtue and philosophical knowledge; or if I have a wish ungratified, it is that the Arts and Sciences may continue to flourish with encreasing lustre.

In the philosophic retreat to which I am retiring, I shall often contemplate with pleasure the extensive utility of your Institution. The field of investigation is ample, the benefits which will result to Human Society from discoveries yet to be made, are indubitable, and the task of studying the works of the great Creator, inexpressibly delightful.<sup>88</sup>

#### TO SAMUEL HODGDON

Philadelphia, December 13, 1783.

Sir: You will be pleased to send immediately to the orders of His Excellency the Chevr. de la Luzerne, the two pieces of Ordinance which were engraved by my desire at Poughkeepsie for the Count de Grasse, and which are now in your possession. I am, etc.<sup>89</sup>

#### TO CHARLES ARMAND-TUFFIN

December 13, 1783.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 11th. inst: has been delivered to me. I am extremely sorry to be obliged to deny any request which comes from you; but never having opened a correspondence with the Minister of War in France, and having refused the like application from other officers, it is impossible to

<sup>87</sup>The address of the American Philosophical Society, dated Dec. 12, 1783, is in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>88</sup>The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

<sup>89</sup>From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

comply with it in this instance. I shall however be very happy in giving you a Certificate or letter, expressive of my approbation of your services.

I feel myself exceedingly flattered by your proposition of wearing my picture and would sit for you with great pleasure if the multiplicity of business I have to do in a short time would permit me; a good copy may however, be had in town, and I sincerely wish it may constantly impress on your mind the great regard and esteem with which I am, etc.<sup>40</sup>

\*To SAMUEL HODGDON

Philadelphia, December 13, 1783.

Sir: The Trunk, and two boxes or Cases which you brought from New York for me, with a few other Articles which I shall send to you to morrow, I would have go on by Land as my Papers, and other valuable things are contained in them.

The Boxes and other parcels which were sent from Rocky hill by Colo. Morgan, may go by Water to Alexandria; for which place a Vessel (Colo Biddle informs me) is just on the point of Sailing, and will probably be the last for that River, Potomack, this Season; let me entreat therefore that the opportunity may not be lost in sending them by her.

Inclosed is 40 Dollars, 5 more than your Acct. I am etc.<sup>41</sup>

To DOCTOR HUGH MARTIN

Philadelphia, December 13, 1783.

Sir: As I have been and still am extremely occupied in closing my public and private affairs in this City, it is not in my

<sup>40</sup>From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>41</sup>From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by Mrs. Oraetta Hodgdon Buttolph, of Providence, R. I.

power to make any farther observations on the subject contained in your letters of the 3d. of Novr. and 8th. of Decr., than just to remark, that in my opinion it would be very unfortunate to lose the knowledge of any discovery which tended to prevent or remove the calamities of human life.

Under this belief I should recommend the communication of your discovery, and I think, at the same time, that some compensation for your trouble and skill in prosecuting the investigation, would be highly reasonable; but I know not how this can be effected in the state of our affairs, unless by the profits arising from the sale of your publication; nor do I see what agency I can with propriety have in the matter, beyond subscribing for your work: for it appears to me that certificates or recommendations from those who have been restored to health by the efficacy of your medicine, would be vastly more pertinent, and of infinitely more avail, than any thing I could say or do on the subject. I am, etc.<sup>42</sup>

#### TO CHEVALIER DE LA LUZERNE

Philadelphia, December 14, 1783.

Sir: I have just received a Letter from General McIntosh in Georgia praying me to use my interest with your Excellency in favor of a young frenchman under the name of Du Coins<sup>43</sup> whose situation is explained in the Letter I now do myself the honor to inclose.

Tho' I am unacquainted with the young Gentleman otherwise than by that Letter, yet having served with Credit in our

<sup>42</sup>From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>43</sup>John Francis Borigere de Costia, who called himself "Capt. John du Coins" on account of a dueling difficulty. He entered the Fourth Georgia Regiment in 1777 and served to the end of the war.

Army and being represented to me as deserving, I must confess I feel myself interested in his favor, and if there will be no impropriety, shall be much obliged by anything your Excellency can do for him. With my great esteem etc.<sup>44</sup>

#### TO ANTHONY WAYNE

Philadelphia, December 14, 1783.

Dear Sir: I have only time before my departure from this City to acknowledge the receipt of your two favors of the 1 Novr.<sup>45</sup> and 14 December with the several inclosures, which I will take an opportunity of laying before Congress at as early a period as possible.

I should have been very happy to have seen you here; and am sorry your health did not permit it; I hope however I shall soon have that pleasure at Mount Vernon, being with great regard etc.<sup>46</sup>

[H. S. P.]

#### TO LACHLAN McINTOSH

Philadelphia, December 15, 1783.

Dr. Sir: I have within a few days past received your two favors of the 15 October and 1st Novr. the latter inclosing your application to Congress.

Inclosed is my Letter to the Minister of France on the subject of Captain Du Coins. I have yet no answer, if it comes before I close this, I will send it you.

Tomorrow I set off for Annapolis on my way home, and will deliver your application with the other inclosure to Congress,

<sup>44</sup>In the writing of Benjamin Walker. From the original in the *Paris Archives, Aff. Etrang., Mems et Docs., E. U.*, vol. 6.

<sup>45</sup>Wayne's letter (a 12-page one), reporting his operations in Georgia from Jan. 19 to Dec. 9, 1782, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, no. 152, vol. 11, fol. 555.

<sup>46</sup>In the writing of Benjamin Walker.

but I must observe that the resolve of your Assembly of 1 feby last, on which Congress must found their resolution for rescinding their former resolve respecting you, may, for want of its being authenticated properly, be deemed insufficient for Congress to act on. I will however give your application all the support in my power and have no doubt Congress will be happy in doing you Justice. With great regard I am, etc.<sup>47</sup>

\*To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Philadelphia, December 15, 1783.

My dear Sir: It was with exceeding great concern I heard by Mr. Gouv. Morris that you had a return of your Fever; I hope it was slight and that you are now perfectly restored to health. No Man wishes it more sincerely than I do.

I have been able to negotiate a matter with Mr. Robt. Morris by wch. about Seventeen hundred pounds York Currency will be thrown into your hands on my Acct. which sum, when received, I pray you to carry to the credit of my Bond.

I am within a few Minutes of setting off for Virginia, passing thro' Annapolis, where I shall stay two or three days only. My very best wishes always attend Mrs. Clinton and your family; and with much respect, and sincere Affection etc.<sup>48</sup>

To CHARLES ARMAND-TUFFIN

Philadelphia, December 15, 1783.

My Dear Marqs: Among the last acts of my public life, none afford me more pleasure than to acknowledge the assistance I have received from those worthy men whom I have had the

<sup>47</sup>In the writing of Benjamin Walker. From a photostat of the original through the kindness of Judge E. A. Armstrong, of Princeton, N. J.

<sup>48</sup>From a photostat of the original through the kindness of Judge E. A. Armstrong, of Princeton, N. J.

honor to command, and whose exertions have so much contributed to the safety and liberty of my Country.

In the number of these, You my Dear Sir, cannot pass unnoticed. The great zeal, intelligence and bravery you have shewn, and the various distinguished services you have performed, deserve my warmest thanks.

It is impossible for me to recollect at this moment, all the particular times at which you have signalized yourself. Your conduct at the action of the Short hills, where out of eighty men, you had thirty killed, and where you served a piece of Artillery which, but for your spirited behaviour, would have been taken by the enemy. Your behaviour at the Head of Elk, where you commanded the rear Guard in the retreat. Your conduct in the actions of Brandywine and White Marsh, and particularly when under the Marquis de la Fayette, and next in command to him, you, with the Militia and a few rifle men, made a successful attack on the rear guard of Lord Cornwallis' Army. Your conduct, I say, in these instances, while it did infinite honor to yourself, was of singular service to the Country. But among all the services you have performed, I must not forget the very handsome partizan stroke you made in West-Chester, where with all the address and bravery of a complete partizan Officer, you surprized a Major and some men of the enemy, in quarters, a considerable distance within their Pickets, and brought them off without any loss on your side.

Though I had not the opportunity of being a witness to your conduct in 1780 when you was to the southward, the reports I had of it did not lessen the good opinion I before had of you; and the next year I was particularly obliged to you, for your very spirited behaviour you shewed, in becoming a Volunteer and going in that character at the head of the Column to the attack and storm of the redoubt at York town.

After such a series of behaviour in the field, as could not but gain my applause. The great zeal and activity shewn in raising and discipling a new Corps, and the good order caused to be observed during the whole time you was quartered at Yorktown, confirmed my opinion of your character, as *an excellent Officer*.

While I give you this last public testimony of my approbation, I beg you to believe, that nothing will give me more satisfaction, than to have it in my power to give you more solid proofs of the real friendship and esteem, with which etc.<sup>49</sup>

TO THE BURGESSES AND COMMON COUNCIL OF  
THE BOROUGH OF WILMINGTON

Wilmington, December 16, 1783.

Gentlemen: I earnestly wish to convince you of the pleasure I take in reciprocating your congratulation on our glorious successes, and the attainment of an honorable Peace.<sup>50</sup>

Altho' the prospect of our public affairs has been sometimes gloomy indeed; yet the well-known firmness of my Countrymen, and the expected aid of Heaven, supported me in the trying hour, and have finally realised our most sanguine wishes.

In the course of your Address you have sufficiently convinced me of your abilities to excite very pleasing emotions, and you must permit me to say, that the genuine approbation of my fellow-Citizens is far more satisfactory, than the most lavish encomiums could be.

<sup>49</sup>From a contemporary copy made in the office of the Secretary of the Continental Congress and indorsed: "March 1st. 1784 Original returned to Genl. Armand." This copy is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, no. 152, vol. 11, fol. 643.

<sup>50</sup>The address of the burgesses *et al.*, dated by Washington "Wilmington, Dec. 16, 1783," is in the *Washington Papers*.



Under a deep impression of your generous sentiments and wishes, I return to a long meditated retirement. And let me assure you, Gentlemen, tho' I shall no more appear on the great Theatre of Action, the Wellfare of our infant States can never be indifferent to me.<sup>51</sup>

### TO THE CITIZENS OF BALTIMORE

Baltimore, December 18, 1783.

Gentlemen: The acceptable manner in which you have well-comed my arrival in the Town of Baltimore, and the happy terms in which you have communicated the congratulations of its Inhabitants, lay me under the greatest obligations.<sup>52</sup>

Be pleased, Gentlemen, to receive this last public acknowledgement for the repeated instances of your politeness, and to believe, it is my earnest wish that the Commerce, the Improvements, and universal prosperity of this flourishing Town, may, if possible, encrease with even more rapidity than they have hitherto done. I have the Honour, etc.<sup>53</sup>

### TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Annapolis, December 20, 1783.

Sir: I take the earliest opportunity to inform Congress of my arrival in this City,<sup>54</sup> with the intention of asking leave to resign the Commission I have the honor of holding in their Service.

<sup>51</sup>In the writing of David Humphreys. The original is in the Delaware Historical Society.

<sup>52</sup>The address of the citizens of Baltimore, dated Dec. 18, 1783, is in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>53</sup>The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

<sup>54</sup>Washington arrived in Annapolis on December 19. From Walker's memorandum of expense on the road from Philadelphia to Annapolis, the route was: Chester, Wilmington, Head of Elk, Susquehanna Ferry, Bush Town, Leggits, Baltimore, Mrs. Urquhart's, and Annapolis. This memorandum, dated Dec. 27, 1783, is in the *Washington Papers*.

It is essential for me to know their pleasure, and in what manner it will be most proper to offer my resignation, whether in writing, or at an Audience; I shall therefore request to be honored with the necessary information, that being apprized of the sentiments of Congress I may regulate my Conduct accordingly. I have the honor etc.<sup>88</sup>

### TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Annapolis, December 21, 1783.

Sir: In my last dispatch to your Excellency, I had the honor to inform Congress, that the American Troops had taken possession of the City of New York, and had delivered it to the Government of the State; and that the British Troops had retired to Staten and Long Islands. I had also the honor to inclose to you Sir Guy Carletons last letter, informing me of his intention to take his final departure from the Continent, with the Troops under his Command, on the 4th. of this month.

As there was no longer a necessity for retaining so many Troops in service for the Posts at present in our possession, and as the terms of service of the men were expiring so fast, that 1500 or 2000 would have been discharged by June next, I thought it most consistent with the state of our public affairs, to lessen the expence as soon as possible, and therefore gave directions to Major General Knox before I left New York, to reduce the whole of the Troops, to one Battallion of Infantry of 500 Rank and file, and about 100 Artillery, and these to be of the Men who had the longest time to serve.

To carry this arrangement into effect, and to collect and put into a state of preservation the Ordnance and other valuable

<sup>88</sup> In the writing of Benjamin Walker.

Military Stores belonging to the United States, it was necessary there should be some Officer of Rank and abilities, and as the latter business was in the particular line of General Knox, and none understood or could attend to it so well, I directed that Officer to continue in command, untill the further pleasure of Congress should be made known to him.

Among the Officers of the Army who have been obliged to retire at the conclusion of the War, are many who from various motives are desirous of being arranged on any Peace Establishment that may take place.<sup>66</sup> I take the liberty to lay before Congress the several applications that have been made to me on the subject, and in addition to the testimony which accompanies them, I can only add mine, that most of the Gentlemen, whose names are on the list, are personally known to me as some of the best Officers who were in the Army.

Before I left the Northward, Brigr. General Michl. Jackson delivered me a Memorial<sup>67</sup> which he requested me to lay before Congress: but as, from some accident, it has been mislaid, I will take the liberty of mentioning the purport of it to that honorable Body. This Officer in 1776 when Major of one of the Massachusetts Regiments, received a Wound in one of his Legs, at the attack on Montresors Island, which ever since and still continues to be extremely painfull and inconvenient to him, and totally incapacitates him from any Violent exercise; he has a large family and solicits some further provision. At the time I promised to lay his Memorial before Congress, I gave him my

<sup>66</sup>A list of these officers accompanies this letter from Washington. They are: Col. Richard Butler; Lieutenant Colonels Harmar and Mentges, of Pennsylvania; Smith, of New York, and Humphreys, of Connecticut; Majors Moore, of Pennsylvania, and Hamtranck, of New York; Captains Fowler and Vandenburg, of New York; Bowen, Zeigler, McCully, and Armstrong, of Pennsylvania; Singleton of Virginia, and Dyer, of Maryland; and Lieutenant Armstrong, of Pennsylvania.

<sup>67</sup>Jackson's Memorial (Nov. 8, 1783) is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, no. 41, vol. 4, 463.

opinion that it was not probable the subject would not be taken up partially, but that some general provision might be made for all under the same circumstances. A Petition of the like nature has been shewn me from some Wounded Officers of the Corps of Invalids.

I have the honor to transmit your Excellency a Letter from General Wayne, with sundry papers accompanying it,<sup>58</sup> also a Letter from General McIntosh, and one from General Du Portail in favor of Captain Castaing.<sup>59</sup>

It having become necessary last Spring to send some Troops into West Chester County in the State of New York to take possession of that part of it which the British had evacuated, and to support the Magistrates in reestablishing the Civil Government of the State, Colonel Hull was sent on that service, and from the particular nature of it was put to much additional expence, he has applied to me to be reimbursed, but altho' I think his demand of 24 dollars p Month during five Months he was on that service just and reasonable, I could only recommend him to Congress, which I now take the liberty of doing. With great respect I have the honor etc.

P.S. I must take the liberty to mention that Colonel Richard Butler, in case he cannot be employed on a Peace Establishment would be glad to be appointed a Commissioner for Indian Affairs; from the knowledge I have of his Character I think him a proper person for that Employ and as such beg leave to recommend him to Congress.<sup>60</sup>

<sup>58</sup> See Washington's letter to Anthony Wayne, Dec. 14, 1783, *ante*. Copies of the papers concerning Wayne's operations in Georgia, with copies by Wayne of his letters to Washington, are filed with this letter from Washington in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*.

<sup>59</sup> Capt. Peter Castaing. He was aide to Du Portail, whose letter of Nov. 6, 1783, is in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>60</sup> In the writing of Benjamin Walker. The letter was read in Congress on December 22.

TO THE MAYOR, RECORDER, ALDERMEN, AND  
COMMON COUNCIL OF ANNAPOLIS

December 22, 1783.

Permit me, Gentlemen, to offer to you my sincere thanks for your Congratulations on the happy events, of Peace and the Establishment of our Independence.<sup>61</sup>

If my Conduct throughout the War has merited the confidence of my fellow Citizens, and has been instrumental in obtaining for my Country the blessings of Peace and Freedom, I owe it to that Supreme being who guides the hearts of all; who has so signally interposed his aid in every Stage of the Contest and who has graciously been pleased to bestow on me the greatest of Earthly rewards: *the approbation and affections of a free people.*

Tho' I retire from the employments of public life I shall never cease to entertain the most anxious care for the welfare of my Country. May the Almighty dispose the heart of every Citizen of the United States to improve the great prospect of happiness before us, and may you Gentlemen, and the Inhabitants of this City long enjoy every felicity, this World can Afford.<sup>62</sup>

TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND

[December 22, 1783.]

Gentlemen: I feel myself particularly happy in receiving the approbation of the Genl Assembly of Maryland, for those services which my Country had a right to demand, and which it was my duty to render in defence of it.<sup>63</sup>

<sup>61</sup>The address of the mayor *et al.*, dated by Washington Dec. 22, 1783, is in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>62</sup>The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

<sup>63</sup>The address of the General Assembly of Maryland, dated Dec. 22, 1783, is in the *Washington Papers*.

Having happily attained the object for which we had drawn the Sword; I felicitated myself on my approaching return to private life, and I must acknowledge I anticipated an unusual degree of self-gratification in that retirement which you have pleased to consider as an evidence of patriotism.

You have rightly judged, Gentlemen, that public Liberty cannot be long preserved, without the influence of those public virtues which you have enumerated. May the example you have exhibited, and the disposition you have manifested, prevail extensively and have the most salutary operation! for I am well assured, it is only by a general adoption of wise and equitable Measures, that I can derive any personal satisfaction, or the public any permanent advantage from the successful issue of the late Contest.

I am deeply penetrated with the liberal sentiments and wishes contained in your last Address to me as a public character. And while I am bidding you a final farewell in that capacity, be assured Gentlemen, that it will be my study in retirement not to forfeit the favorable opinion of my fellow Citizens.<sup>64</sup>

## TO THE GOVERNOR AND COUNCIL OF MARYLAND

Annapolis, December 23, 1783.

Gentlemen: I shall ever cherish a pleasing remembrance of the welcome reception I have experienced from your Excellency and the Council, on my return to this City, after the happy and honorable termination of the War.<sup>65</sup>

The flattering sentiments you entertain of my exertions in defence of our Country, and the favorable point of light in which

<sup>64</sup>The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

<sup>65</sup>The address of the governor *et al.*, dated Dec. 20, 1783, is in the *Washington Papers*.

you place my Character, too strongly demonstrate your friendship, not to claim the most gratefull return from me.

Convinced from experience, of the wisdom and decision which have signalized the Government of Maryland, I cannot form a better wish for the future prosperity of the State, than that the same spirit of Justice and Patriotism, which actuated its Councils during a long and eventfull War, may continue to dictate its measures thro' a durable and happy Peace. With the most perfect consideration etc.<sup>66</sup> [MD. H. S.]

**\*To BARON STEUBEN**

Annapolis, December 23, 1783.

My dear Baron: Altho' I have taken frequent opportunities, both in public and private, of acknowledging your great zeal, attention, and abilities in performing the duties of your Office; yet I wish to make use of this last moment of my public life, to signify in the strongest terms my entire approbation of your conduct, and to express my sense of the obligations the public is under to you, for your faithful and meritorious Services.

I beg you will be convinced, My dear Sir, that I should rejoice if it could ever be in my power to serve you more essentially than by expressions of regard and affection; but in the meantime, I am perswaded you will not be displeased with this farewell token of my sincere friendship and esteem for you.

This is the last Letter I shall ever write while I continue in the service of my Country; the hour of my resignation is fixed at twelve this day; after which I shall become a private Citizen on the Banks of the Potomack, where I shall be glad to embrace you, and to testify the great esteem and consideration with which I am etc.<sup>67</sup>

<sup>66</sup>In the writing of Benjamin Walker.

<sup>67</sup>From the original in the office of the Secretary of the United States Senate.

\*ADDRESS TO CONGRESS ON RESIGNING  
HIS COMMISSION

[Annapolis, December 23, 1783.]

Mr. President: The great events on which my resignation depended having at length taken place; I have now the honor of offering my sincere Congratulations to Congress and of presenting myself before them to surrender into their hands the trust committed to me, and to claim the indulgence of retiring from the Service of my Country.

Happy in the confirmation of our Independence and Sovereignty, and pleased with the opportunity afforded the United States of becoming a respectable Nation, I resign with satisfaction the Appointment I accepted with diffidence. A diffidence in my abilities to accomplish so arduous a task, which however was superseded by a confidence in the rectitude of our Cause, the support of the Supreme Power of the Union, and the patronage of Heaven.

The Successful termination of the War has verified the most sanguine expectations, and my gratitude for the interposition of Providence, and the assistance I have received from my Countrymen, encreases with every review of the momentous Contest.

While I repeat my obligations to the Army in general, I should do injustice to my own feelings not to acknowledge in this place the peculiar Services and distinguished merits of the Gentlemen who have been attached to my person during the War. It was impossible the choice of confidential Officers to compose my family should have been more fortunate. Permit me Sir, to recommend in particular those, who have continued in Service to the present moment, as worthy of the favorable notice and patronage of Congress.



I consider it an indispensable duty to close this last solemn act of my Official life, by commending the Interests of our dearest Country to the protection of Almighty God, and those who have the superintendence of them, to his holy keeping.

Having now finished the work assigned me, I retire from the great theatre of Action; and bidding an Affectionate farewell to this August body under whose orders I have so long acted, I here offer my Commission, and take my leave of all the employments of public life.<sup>66</sup>

<sup>66</sup>From the draft in the *McHenry Photostats* in the Library of Congress. A fair copy, by Humphreys, signed and dated by Washington, is in the *Washington Papers*. A committee, composed of Thomas Jefferson, Elbridge Gerry, and James McHenry, reported to Congress, December 22, that—

"1. The President and members are to be seated and covered, and the secretary to be standing by the side of the President.

"2. The arrival of the General is to be announced by the messenger to the secretary, who is thereupon to introduce the General attended by his aids to the Hall of Congress.

"3. The General being conducted to a chair by the secretary is to be seated with an aid on each side, standing, and the secretary is to resume his place.

"4. After a proper time for the arrangement of spectators, silence is to be ordered by the secretary, if necessary, and the President is to address the general in the following words:

"'Sir, The United States in Congress assembled are prepared to receive your communications.'

"Where upon the General is to arise and address Congress, after which he is to deliver his Commission and a copy of his address to the President.

"5. The General having resumed his place, the President is to deliver the answer of Congress, which the General is to receive standing.

"6. The President having finished, the secretary is to deliver the General a copy of the answer, and the General is then to take his leave.

"When the General rises to make his address, and also when he retires, he is to bow to Congress, which they are to return by uncovering without bowing."

For the answer of the President, see the *Journals of the Continental Congress*, Dec. 23, 1783. A copy, in the writing of Charles Thomson, and signed by him, is in the *Washington Papers*.

James Tilton wrote to Gunning Bedford, from Annapolis, on Christmas day:

"The General came to town last friday, and announced his arrival, by a letter to congress, requesting to know, in what manner they chused he should resign his authority; whether by private letter or public audience? The latter was preferred without hesitation. Some etiquette being settled on saturday, a public dinner was ordered on monday and the audience to be on tuesday. The feast on monday was the most extraordinary I ever attended. Between 2 and 3 hundred Gentn: dined together in the *ball-room*. The number of cheerful voices, with the clangor of knives and forks made a din of a very extraordinary nature and most delightful influence. Every man seemed to be in heaven or so absorbed in the pleasures of imagination, as to neglect the more sordid appetites, for not a soul got drunk, though there was wine in plenty and the usual number of 13 toasts drank, besides one given afterwards by the General which

CIRCULAR TO STATE PRESIDENTS OF THE  
SOCIETY OF THE CINCINNATIMount Vernon,<sup>69</sup> Virginia, December 28, 1783.<sup>70</sup>

Sir: After taking all the various circumstances into mature consideration, I have thought proper to appoint the City of Philadelphia to be the place for the general Meeting of the Society of Cincinnati on the first Monday in May next, agreeably to the original Institution.

The object of this Letter is to communicate timely information thereof, that proper notice may be given to the Delegates of your State Society, whose punctual attendance will be expected at the time and place before mentioned.

Having made this communication, I have only to suggest, that it may perhaps be preferable to give the necessary notice to

you ought to be acquainted with: it is as follows. 'Competent powers to congress for general purposes.'

"In the evening of the same day, the Governor gave a ball at the State House. To light the rooms every window was illuminated. Here the company was equally numerous, and more brilliant, consisting of ladies and Gentn: Such was my villanous awkwardness, that I could not venture to dance on this occasion, you must therefore annex to it a cleverer Idea, than is to be expected from such a mortified whelp as I am. The General danced every set, that all the ladies might have the pleasure of dancing with him, or as it has since been handsomely expressed, *get a touch of him*.

"Tuesday morning, Congress met, and took their seats in order, all covered. At twelve o'clock the General was introduced by the Secretary, and seated opposite to the president, until the throng, that filled all the avenues, were so disposed of so as to behold the solemnity. The ladies occupied the gallery as full as it would hold, the Gentn: crouded below stairs. Silence ordered, by the Secretary, the Genl. rose and bowed to congress, who uncovered, but did not bow. He then delivered his speech, and at the close of it drew his commission from his bosom and handed it to the president. The president replied in a set speech, the General bowed again to Congress, they uncovered and the General retired. After a little pause until the company withdrew, Congress adjourned. The General then stepped into the room again, bid every member farewell and rode off from the door, intent upon eating his christmas dinner at home. Many of the spectators, particularly the fair ones shed tears, on this solemn and affecting occasion. Sir Robert Eden and Mr. William Harford attended very respectfully. They were also at the public dinner and the dance."

From the text of the original kindly furnished by Guy Stonestreet, of New York City.

<sup>69</sup> Washington arrived at Mount Vernon on Christmas eve.

<sup>70</sup> Some of these circulars are dated Jan. 1, 1784.

your Delegates by Letter, rather than by a public Notification; I would however wish that whatever mode is adopted, measures may be taken to prevent a possibility of failure in the communication. I have the honor etc.

P. S. Please to acknowledge the receipt of this Letter.<sup>71</sup>

\*To MASONIC LODGE, NUMBER 39, IN  
ALEXANDRIA

Mount Vernon, December 28, 1783.

Gentn.: With pleasing sensibility I received your favor of the 26th. and beg leave to offer you my sincere thanks for the favorable sentiments with which it abounds.

I shall always feel pleasure when it may be in my power to render Service to lodge No 39, and in every act of brotherly kindness to the Members of it; being with great truth your Affect. Brother, etc.

To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Mount Vernon, December 28, 1783.

My dear Sir: After as prosperous a Journey as could be expected at this late season of the year, I arrived at my Seat the day before Christmas, having previously divested myself of my official character. I am now a private Citizen on the banks of the Powtowmack, where I should be happy to see you if your public business would ever permit, and where in the meantime I shall fondly cherish the remembrance of all your former friendship.

<sup>71</sup>In the writing of David Humphreys. From a photostat of the original in the Rhode Island Society of the Cincinnati. The P. S. is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

Altho I scarcely need tell you how much I have been satisfied with every instance of your public conduct, yet I could not suffer Col Walker [whose merits are too well known to you to need a recommendation of him from me if any thing should cast up favorable to his wishes] to depart for N York, without giving your Excellency one more testimony of the obligations I consider myself under for the spirited and able assistance, I have often derived from the State under your Administration. The Scene is at last closed. I feel myself eased of a load of public Care. I hope to spend the remainder of my Days in cultivating the affections of good Men, and in the practice of the domestic Virtues; permit me still to consider you in the Number of my friends, and to wish you every felicity.

Mrs. Washington joins me in presentg the Complts of the Season with our best respects to Mrs. Clinton and the family. I have the honor etc.<sup>72</sup>

#### TO THE MAYOR AND COMMONALTY OF ALEXANDRIA

[December 31, 1783.]

Gentlemen: Nothing could have contributed more essentially to encrease the satisfaction I experience on my return from a successful War, to the tranquillity of domestic life, than your affectionate Congratulations.<sup>73</sup>

To find that neither time nor absence have interrupted or diminished the harmony of our happy neighbourhood, and that the circumstances are most favorable to the growth and prosperity of your rising Town, affords sensations of a very pleasing Nature. May the agreeable prospects be soon realized! and

<sup>72</sup>The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

<sup>73</sup>The address of the mayor *et al.* is in the *Washington Papers*.

may the morals and conduct of the Inhabitants of Alexandria ever continue to insure its felicity.

While your friendly concern for my future welfare demands my best acknowledgments, I beg you will be persuaded, Gentlemen, that there is a certain homefelt [*sic*] gratification in receiving the approbation and good wishes of those with whom we have been long acquainted and whose friendship we value, which can more easily be conceived than described.<sup>74</sup>

### TO RICHARD VARICK

Mount Vernon, January 1, 1784.

Dear Sir: From the moment I left the City of New York until my arrival at this place, I have been so much occupied by a variety of concerns, that I could not find a moments leisure to acknowledge the receipt of your two favors of the 4th and 7th. Ulto.

The public and other papers, which were committed to your charge, and the Books in which they have been recorded under your inspection, having come safe to hand; I take this first opportunity of signifying my entire approbation of the manner in which you have executed the important duties of recording Secretary; and the satisfaction I feel in having my papers so properly arranged, and so correctly recorded;<sup>75</sup> and beg you will accept my thanks for the care and attention which you have given to this business. I am fully convinced that neither the present age or posterity will consider the time and labour

<sup>74</sup>The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys, and indorsed by Washington with the date of December 31.

<sup>75</sup>The Varick Transcripts in the Library of Congress show, by the careful comparison necessary in editing this edition of the *Writings*, a minimum of errors. The differences in the transcripts from the drafts and the letters sent were, in the main, differences in spelling and capitalization of words; the punctuation variations are to be set down to differences of customs between professional copyists and Washington and his aides. Washington's statement, "correctly recorded," is a just one.

which have been employed in accomplishing it, unprofitably spent.

I beg you will be persuaded, that I shall take a pleasure in asserting on every occasion, the sense I entertain of the fidelity, skill and indefatigable industry manifested by you in the performance of your public duties, and that I am, etc.<sup>76</sup>

#### TO COMTE DE BRUHL

Mount Vernon, January 3, 1784.

Sir: In forwarding the Letter of the Count de Solms you have done a most acceptable office by bringing me acquainted with so venerable and dignified a character; you have also given me an occasion of experiencing your great politeness, and of expressing my obligations for it.

I must now take the liberty of committing to your charge a Letter directed to the Count; it is the harbinger of the Portrait which is intended to be presented to him, in conformity to his request and your permission, and which will be likewise addressed to your care by my friend the Honble Robt. Morris of Philadelphia. I have the honor, etc.<sup>78</sup>

#### TO COMTE DE SOLMS

Mount Vernon, January 3, 1784.

Sir: The Letter which you did me the honor to write from Konigstein on the 9th. of July<sup>77</sup> last came safely to my hands a few days ago, accompanied by one from Monsr. le Conte. de Bruhl.<sup>78</sup>

<sup>76</sup>From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>77</sup>This letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>78</sup>Bruhl had written from London, Sept. 4, 1783. A copy of his letter is in the *Washington Papers*. (See Washington's letter to Joseph Wright, Jan. 10, 1784, *post*.)

I must entreat, my General, that you will accept my best acknowledgments for the favorable opinion you are pleased to express of my military character, as well as for your great politeness in proposing to introduce my likeness<sup>79</sup> amongst your collection of heroes. I must likewise be permitted to assure you with how much satisfaction I should have embraced and welcomed, at my Seat on the banks of the Patowmac, the venerable Solldart, the noble Count de Solms, who has had the happiness to have served with, and to have been the friend and companion of those illustrious characters which now compose his inestimable collection, and into whose company, I am sensible it is no small honor, to have even my portrait admitted.

But as the distance, and circumstances will not permit me the pleasure of seeing you, I must be contented with giving the best demonstration of respect in my power; I have not delayed a moment therefore to comply with your wishes, but have employed a Gentleman to perform the work, who is thought on a former occasion to have taken a better likeness of me, than any other painter has done: His forté seems to be in giving the distinguishing characteristics with more boldness than delicacy. And altho' he commonly marks the features very strongly, yet I cannot flatter you, that you will find the touches of his pencil extremely soft, or that the portrait will in any respect equal your expectations. Such as it may be (and for your sake, I would wish the execution was as perfect as possible) it will be forwarded from Philada., to the orders of the Count de Bruhl, as soon as it is finished, and I pray your acceptance of it as a token of the great veneration and esteem with which I have the honor, etc.<sup>80</sup>

<sup>79</sup>Solms acknowledged the receipt of the portrait, Aug. 4, 1785. Solms's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>80</sup>From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

## TO THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE

Mount Vernon, January 4, 1784.

Dear Sir: Herewith I give you the trouble of receiving the Account of my expenditures in Philadelphia; and on my Journey home. If I recollect right, Colo. Cobb told me this was the mode you had Suggested to him, as proper for my proceeding in this matter.

The hurry I was involved in the morning I left the City, occasioned my neglecting to take a Memorandum of the Amount of the last Warrant which I drew on the pay Mr. General, and obliges me now<sup>81</sup> to exhibit two Accounts that I may be sure that one of them is right. The reason is this. I gave Colo. Cobb the balance which was due to me on the last Account vizt. £217.16.8. to found the Warrant, but in the hurry we were both in, he neither asked, nor did I tell him, that it was lawful Money (that is, dollars at 6/.) and from a recollection of a circumstance which I did not advert to at the time I signed the Warrant, I am led to believe he considered it Pennsylvania money, and drew the Warrant accordingly.

Should this be the case, the Account No. 2, is the one which ought to be presented at the Auditors Office. And Vice Versa. I have to request the favour of you therefore my good Sir, to let one of your Clerks examine the Warrant which I drew, or the Books of the Pay office to determine this point. And I shall be obliged to you for throwing the balance which may be found due to me on either, into the hands of Governor Clinton as soon as it is convenient, as he was kind enough to borrow money to answer my Wants for which I am now paying an Interest of Seven pr Cent.

<sup>81</sup>This word is underscored in the "Letter Book" copy.



Equally unexpected by them, as it appeared Just in my eyes to do it I have given my late Aids, who attended me from the Seat of my Military Command, One Hundred dollars each to bear their expences home; I could not think it reasonable, that, from their attachment to me, or from motives of etiquette, they should incur this charge themselves. Their finances I well knew were unable to bear it, altho I had some difficulty to prevail on them to accept this aid. Cobb I would not Suffer, (on Accot. of his domestic and other concerns) to proceed any further than Philadelphia with me but his distance from thence home, would be equal to those of Humphreys and Walkers from this place; all stand therefore upon an equal footing in my allowance.

I cannot close this Letter without a renewal of those sentiments of friendship and regard, which I have always felt and professed for you; nor without those expressions of my Sensibility for the many instances of polite attention and Civilities which I have received from Mrs. Morris and you as result from a Susceptible mind; particularly during my late Stay in Philadelphia. I flatter myself it is unnecessary to repeat the assurances of the pleasure it would give Mrs. Washington and me to see you and Mrs. Morris at this retreat from my public cares, and yet, if I obey the dictates of my inclination and Wishes, I must do it. My best wishes, and respectful Compliments in which Mrs. Washington Joins me, are offered to you both; and with sincere esteem, etc.<sup>82</sup>

TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL, JUNIOR

Mount Vernon, January 5, 1784.

Dear Trumbull: Your obliging Letter of the 15th. of Novembr. did not reach me until some days after we had taken

<sup>82</sup>From a copy made in the office of the Superintendent of Finance.

possession of the city of New York. The scene that followed, of festivity, congratulation, addresses and resignation, must be my apology for not replying to it sooner.

I sincerely thank you for the copy of the address of Govr. Trumbull to the Genl. Assembly and free Men of your State;<sup>88</sup> the sentiments contained in it are such as would do honor to a patriot of any age or Nation; at least, they are too coincident with my own, not to meet with my warmest approbation. Be so good as to present my most cordial respects to the Governor and let him know that it is my wish, the mutual friendship and esteem which have been planted and fostered in the tumult of public life, may not wither and die in the serenity of retirement: tell him we shou'd rather amuse our evening hours of Life in cultivating the tender plants, and bringing them to perfection, before they are transplanted to a happier clime.

Notwithstanding the jealous and contracted temper which seems to prevail in some of the States, yet I cannot but hope and believe that the good sense of the people will ultimately get the better of their prejudices; and that order and sound policy, tho' they do not come so soon as one wou'd wish, will be produced from the present unsettled and deranged state of public affairs. Indeed I am happy to observe that the political disposition is actually meliorating every day; several of the States have manifested an inclination to invest Congress with more ample powers; most of the Legislatures appear disposed to do perfect justice; and the Assembly of this Commonwealth have just complied with the requisitions of Congress, and I am informed without a dissentient voice. Every thing My Dear Trumbull

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<sup>88</sup>The address of the Governor and the reply of the Connecticut Legislature, a 9-page pamphlet, under date of Oct. 9, 1783, is in the *Washington Papers*, and was printed by Timothy Green in New London. Jonathan Trumbull, junior's, letter of November 15 is also in the *Washington Papers*.

will come right at last, as we have often prophesied; my only fear is that we shall lose a little reputation first.

After having passed with as much prosperity as could be expected, through the career of public Life, I have now reached the goal of domestic enjoyment; in which state, I assure you I find your good wishes most acceptable to me. The family at Mount Vernon joins in the same compliments and cordiality, with which I am, &c.<sup>84</sup>

### TO JOHN DE NEUFVILLE

Mount Vernon, January 6, 1784.

Sir: I have had the honor to receive your Letter bearing date the 19th. of August and find myself exceedingly indebted to your partiality in favor of my Country and myself, both personally, and as a citizen of the United States of America.

The disaster which has happen'd to the House with which you was connected must be very affecting to every true American; especially as your great zeal in the cause of liberty, and your unwearied efforts to promote the interests of the United States, are well known to the citizens of this republic. I cannot but flatter myself however, that the successes of the new firm of de Neufville & Co will equal their greatest expectations, and that they will meet with the patronage of all who may be favored with their acquaintance and correspondence.

Notwithstanding the embarrassments of our Finances, I am also of opinion, that justice will ultimately be rendered to all the public Creditors: indeed, it is very much to be regretted that any of our good friends should have suffered from the delay of it. The exigencies have been pressing, and the misfortunes

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<sup>84</sup>From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

arising therefrom to private individuals, perhaps inevitable; but the happy termination of the war, will I trust, soon afford an opportunity of retrieving the public credit, and enable Congress, and the State of South Carolina, to discharge the Debts which are due to your house.

I have had the pleasure of becoming acquainted with your son, and if it should be in my power to render him any services, it will be extremely agreeable to, Sir Your, etc.<sup>85</sup>

\*To CLEMENT BIDDLE

Mount Vernon, January 8, 1784.

Dear Sir: Be so good as to send me by the Post, or any other safe and expeditious conveyance, 70 Yards of livery lace three quarters or Inch wide; or any width between. Direct it to the care of the Postmaster in Alexandria. The lace should be red and white.

I will thank you also for sending me, if an opportunity should offer soon by Water, one hundred weight, or even a Barrel of good Coffee. Pray forwd. the Acct. between us that I may discharge the Balld. if it is against me. My Compliments in which Mrs. Washington joins are offered to Mrs. Biddle and Mrs. Shaw. I am etc.

[H.S.P.]

\*To JOSEPH WRIGHT

Mount Vernon, January 10, 1784.

Sir: When you have finished my Portrait, which is intended for the Count de Solms, I will thank you for handing it to Mr. Robert Morris, who will forward it to the Count de Bruhl

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<sup>85</sup> From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

(Minister from his Electoral Highness of Saxe at the Court of London) as the Channel pointed out for the conveyance of it.

As the Count de Solms proposes to honor it with a place in his collection of Military Characters, I am perswaded you will not be deficient in point of execution. Be so good as to forward the cost of it to me, and I will remit you the money. Let it (after Mr. Morris has seen it) be carefully packed to prevent injury. With great esteem, I am etc. [H.S.P.]

### TO THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE

(Private)

Mount Vernon, January 10, 1784.

Dear Sir: I will thank you for putting the letter herewith enclosed into a proper channel of conveyance. The Count de Bruhl is informed by it that my Portrait (which I have begged the Count de Solms to accept) will be forwarded to his care by you, so soon as it is finished, and I request the favor of you to do it accordingly. Mr. Wright is desir'd to hand it to you for this purpose; and as he is said to be a little lazy, you would oblige me by stimulating him to the completion. By promise, it was to have been done in five or six weeks from the time I left Philadelphia, near four of which are expired. I am sorry to give you trouble about trifles, but I know you will excuse it, in this instance. With sentiments of high esteem and regards, I am, etc.<sup>88</sup>

### TO SAMUEL VAUGHAN

Mount Vernon, January 14, 1784.

Sir: The torpid state into which the severity of the season has thrown things, the interruption of the post, occasioned by bad

<sup>88</sup> From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

roads, and frozen rivers, and a want of other conveyance consequent thereof, must plead my excuse for not thanking you sooner for the polite attention you were pleased to shew me, while I was in Philada.; and for the friendly offers you obligingly made me, before I left that city. But though my acknowledgements of them come late, I pray you to be persuaded that they are not less sincere, nor are they less gratefully offered on that account.

Colo. Humphreys (one of my late Aid de Camp's) who accompanied me to Virginia, and is now on his return home, will do me the favor of presenting this letter to you, and of handing Mr. Higgins's observations on Cements, which you were pleased to lend me, and from which I have extracted such parts as I mean to carry into practice.

I found my new room, towards the completion of which you kindly offered your house-joiner, so far advanced in the wooden part of it, the Doors, Windows and floors being done, as to render it unnecessary to remove your workman with his Tools (the distance being great) to finish the other parts; especially as I incline to do it in stucco, (which, if I understood you right, is the present taste in England), and more especially as you may find occasion for him in the execution of your own purposes as the Spring advances. And now my good sir, as I have touched upon the business of stuccoing, permit me to ask you if the rooms with which it is encrusted are painted, generally; or are they left of the natural colour which is given by the cement made according to Mr. Higgins's mode of preparing it? And also, whether the rooms thus finished are stuccoed below the surbase (chair high) or from thence upwards only?

These are trifling questions to trouble you with, but I am sure you will have goodness enough to excuse, and answer

them. Please to make a tender of my best respects to Mrs. Vaughan and the rest of the family, and accept the compliments of the season from Mrs. W——n and myself who join in expression of the pleasure we shou'd feel in seeing you under our roof. I am, etc.<sup>87</sup>

### TO DAVID HUMPHREYS

Mount Vernon, January 14, 1784.

My Dear Humphrys: I have been favored with your Letter of the 6th. Be assured that there are few things which would give me more pleasure than opportunities of evincing to you the sincerity of my friendship, and disposition to render you services at any time when it may be in my power.

Altho' all recommendations from me to Congress must now be considered as coming from a private character, yet I enter very chearfully into your views; and as far as my suggesting of them to that Honble body, accompanied by my testimonial of your competency to the execution of the duties of either of the offices in contemplation will go, you have them freely; and the enclosed Letter, which is a copy of the one I have written to Congress on the occasion, will be an evidence of my good wishes, whatever may be the success.

I cannot take my leave of you, without offering those acknowledgments of your long and zealous services to the public which your merits justly entitle you to, and which a grateful heart should not withhold: and I feel very sensibly the obligations I am personally under to you for the aid I have derived from your abilities, for the chearful assistance you have afforded me upon many interesting occasions, and for the attachment

<sup>87</sup> From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

you have always manifested towards me. I shall hold in pleasing remembrance the friendship and intimacy which has subsisted between us, and shall neglect no opportunity on my part to cultivate and improve them; being, with unfeigned esteem and regard My Dr. Humphrys Yrs. etc.<sup>88</sup>

\*TO PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Mount Vernon, January 14, 1784.

Sir: The goodness of Congress, in the assurances they were pleased to give me of charging themselves with the interests of those Confidential Officers who had attended me to the resignation of my public Employments; and the request of your Excellency to Colonel Humphrys (after I had been honored with my public Audience) that, if any thing should occur to him in consequence of what had just been suggested, that he would communicate it to you in a letter; induce me to take the liberty of bringing the wishes of that Officer before Congress.

Having devoted the last Seven or Eight years to the Service of his Country, he is desirous of continuing in the walk of public life, although he is ignorant, as I also am, of the Offices which Congress have to bestow and may think him competent to. Two things however seem likely to occur; either of which I am perswaded he would fill with as much advantage to the public as reputation to himself. The one is a Regiment; in case a Continental peace Establishment should be resolv'd on: The other, Official Secretary to an Embassy abroad, if new appointments should be made, or a vacancy happen in the old ones.

There is a third thing which I barely hint at, with all possible deference, and with a diffidence which proceeds more from

<sup>88</sup> From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.



a doubt of the propriety of my suggesting it, than from any question which arises in my Mind of his competency to the duties; and that is Secretary of Foreign Affairs, if Congress should think it expedient to make another appointment; and should find all those requisites in him which are necessary to constitute a Minister for that department. For his ability, integrity, punctuality, and sobriety I can fully answer.

If I have gone too far, Congress will please to excuse it; and attribute the error to my wishes to serve a worthy character. I have the honor etc.

#### TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Mount Vernon, January 14, 1784.

Sir: I have had the pleasure to receive your Letter of the 28th ulto: by Mr. Godin,<sup>88</sup> and beg your Excellency to be persuaded, that I shall always be happy in opportunities of shewing every suitable attention to foreigners, and gentn. of such distinction, as those you did me the honor to introduce to my acquaintance.

I am truly sensible Sir, that the Extract from the instructions of the Executive of Pennsylvania to their Delegates contains another most flattering proof of the favourable opinion they are pleased to entertain of my past services. Every repeated mark of the approbation of my fellow citizens (especially of those invested with so dignified an appointment,) demands my particular acknowledgment. Under this impression I cannot but feel the greatest obligations to the supreme executive Council of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania: But as my sentiments on the subject of their instructions, have been long and well known to the public, I need not repeat them to your

<sup>88</sup> A relative of Peter John Van Berckel. He was accompanied on his journey to South Carolina by a Mr. Backer and Mr. Barrow Vos.

Excellency on the present occasion.<sup>90</sup> I have therefore only to add that Mrs. Washington joins me in presenting our best compliments to Mrs. Mifflin, and that I have, etc.<sup>91</sup>

\*To EDWARD HAND

Mount Vernon, January 14, 1784.

Dear Sir: When I left Philadelphia I hoped to have had the pleasure of seeing you at Annapolis before my departure from thence, and to have had an opportunity (previous to my resignation) of expressing to you personally, amongst the last acts of my Official Life, my entire approbation of your public conduct, particularly in the execution of the important duties of Adjutant General.

Notwithstanding I have been disappointed in that expectation, and have it now in my power, only as a private character, to make known my Sentiments and feelings respecting my Military friends, yet I cannot decline making use of the first occasion after my retirement of informing you, My dear Sir, how much reason I have had to be satisfied with the great zeal, attention, and ability manifested by you in conducting the business of your Department; and how happy I should be in opportunities of demonstrating my sincere regard and esteem for you; It is unnecessary I hope to add with what pleasure I should see you at this place, being with great truth My dear Sir, Yr. etc.

[H. S. P.]

<sup>90</sup>The Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania had instructed the State's delegates in Congress to engage Congress' attention to the fact that although Washington "thinks himself amply *rewarded* for all his labors and cares, by the love and prosperity of his fellow citizens," yet "they ought not to suffer those merits to be burthensome to him. We are convinced that the people of Pennsylvania would regret such a consequence." Washington's letter to Congress stopped any further movement in the direction of granting him a monetary reward for his services.

<sup>91</sup>From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

TO WILLIAM HAMILTON<sup>92</sup>

Mount Vernon, January 15, 1784.

Sir: If I recollect right, I heard you say, when I had the pleasure of seeing you last, that you were<sup>93</sup> about a floor composed of a cement which was to answer the purpose of Flagstone or Tile, and that you proposed to variegate the colour in the manner of the former.

As I have a long open Gallery in front of my house to which I want to give a stone; or some other kind of floor which will stand the weather, I would thank you for information respecting the success of your experiment with such directions and observations (if you think the method will answer) as would enable me to execute my purpose. If any of the component parts are rare and expensive, please to note it, and where they are to be obtained, and whether all seasons will do for the admixture of the composition. I will make no apology for the liberty I take by this request, as I persuade myself you will not think it much trouble to comply with it. I am etc.<sup>94</sup>

## \*TO BUSHROD WASHINGTON

Mount Vernon, January 15, 1784.

Dear Bushrod: I have received your letter of the 22d. Ulto. the former one, accompanying my Trunks, also came safe.

When I came to examine the Chimney pieces in this House, I found them so interwoven with the other parts of the Work and so good of their kind, as to induce me to lay aside all thoughts of taking any of them down; for the only room

<sup>92</sup>Of "Bush Hill" near Philadelphia, Pa.

<sup>93</sup>An omission is possible at this point by Bartholomew Dandridge, who was the copyist of this volume of the "Letter Books."

<sup>94</sup>From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

which remains unfinished I am not yet fixed in my own mind but believe I shall place a Marble one there. at any rate I shall suspend the purchase of any of those mentioned in your letter, and would not wish Mr. Roberts to hold either of them in expectation of it.

My best wishes attend you in which your Aunt joins. My Compliments. to Mr. and Mrs. Powell.<sup>95</sup> With much truth and Affection I am etc. [H.S.P.]

\*To CLEMENT BIDDLE

Mount Vernon, January 17, 1784.

Dear Sir: On the 8th. I wrote to you for 70 yards of livery lace<sup>96</sup> (red and white,  $\frac{3}{4}$  or Inch wide, or any width between) to be sent by the Post; or any other safe and expeditious conveyance. Lest that letter should have miscarried I repeat my request, as I am in immediate want of that article. I did, at the sametime desire that One hundd. weight, or a Barrl. of good Coffee might be sent me by the first Vessel bound for the Port of Alexandria.

I pray you now, my good Sir, to send me as soon as a conveyance offers, four brass Wired Sieves, of the common size in the rim, but exactly one eighth, one Sixteenth, and one thirtieth of an Inch in the Meshes; the fourth to be finer than the last mentioned. I want these to prepare materials to compose a Cement of which I propose to make some experiments. exactness therefore in the different sizes is required of the maker of them.

<sup>95</sup> Samuel Powel, of Philadelphia, Pa.

<sup>96</sup> On February 5 Washington wrote again to Biddle about the lace, which had not arrived. He also wanted "a two pole Chain, exact in its length, and not too small, or weak in the links; this I wish to receive soon too. The things you were to send by Water, did not arrive before the Frost set in, and I have heard nothing of them since." This letter is in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. Attached to it is a sample of the lace desired.

I have seen rooms with gilded borders; made I believe, of papier Maché fastned on with Brads or Cement round the Doors and window Casings, Surbase &ca.; and which gives a plain blew, or green paper a rich and handsome look. Is there any to be had in Philadelpa?, and at what price? Is there any plain blew and green Paper to be had also? the price (by the yd. and width) With great regard, etc. [H.S.P.]

### TO GOVERNOR BENJAMIN HARRISON

Mount Vernon, January 18, 1784.

My dear Sir: I have just had the pleasure to receive your letter of the 8th., for the friendly and affectionate terms in which you have welcomed my return to this Country and to private life; and for the favourable light in which you are pleased to consider, and express your sense of my past services, you have my warmest and most grateful acknowledgments.

That the prospect before us is, as you justly observe, fair, none can deny; but what use we shall make of it, is exceedingly problematical; not but that I believe, all things will come right at last; but like a young heir, come a little prematurely to a large inheritance, we shall wanton and run riot until we have brought our reputation to the brink of ruin, and then like him shall have to labor with the current of opinion, when *compelled* perhaps, to do what prudence and common policy pointed out as plain as any problem in Euclid, in the first instance.

The disinclination of the individual States to yield competent powers to Congress for the Federal Government, their unreasonable jealousy of that body and of one another, and the disposition which seems to pervade each, of being all-wise and all-powerful within itself, will, if there is not a change in the

system be our downfall as a nation. This is as clear to me as the A, B, C; and I think we have opposed Great Britain, and have arrived at the present state of peace and independency, to very little purpose, if we cannot conquer our own prejudices. The powers of Europe begin to see this, and our newly acquired friends the British, are already and professedly acting upon this ground; and wisely too, if we are determined to persevere in our folly. They know that individual opposition to their measures is futile, and *boast* that we are not sufficiently united as a Nation to give a general one! Is not the indignity alone, of this declaration, while we are in the very act of peacemaking and conciliation, sufficient to stimulate us to vest more extensive and adequate powers in the sovereign of these United States? For my own part, altho' I am returned to, and am now mingled with the class of private citizens, and like them must suffer all the evils of a Tyranny, or of too great an extension of federal powers; I have no fears arising from this source, in my mind, but I have many, and powerful ones indeed which predict the worst consequences from a half-starved, limping Government, that appears to be always moving upon crutches, and tottering at every step. Men, chosen as the Delegates in Congress are, cannot officially be dangerous; they depend upon the breath, nay, they are so much the creatures of the people, under the present constitution, that they can have no views (which could possibly be carried into execution,) nor any interests, distinct from those of their constituents. My political creed therefore is, to be wise in the choice of Delegates, support them like Gentlemen while they are our representatives, give them competent powers for all federal purposes, support them in the due exercise thereof, and lastly, to compel them to close attendance in Congress during their delegation. These things under the present mode for, and termination of elec-

tions, aided by annual instead of constant Sessions, would, or I am exceedingly mistaken, make us one of the most wealthy, happy, respectable and powerful Nations, that ever inhabited the terrestrial Globe, without them, we shall in my opinion soon be every thing which is the direct reverse of them.

I shall look for you, in the first part of next month, with such other friends as may incline to accompany you, with great pleasure, being with best respects to Mrs. Harrison, in which Mrs. Washington joins me, dear Sir, &c.<sup>97</sup>

#### TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

Mount Vernon, January 19, 1784.

Sir: In a Letter which I did myself the honor to write to your Excellency on the 21st of Decr., amongst other matters which were submitted to the consideration of Congress, I mentioned the case of Brigr. Genl. Michael Jackson, and informed you that having mislaid the papers relative to it, I could only state the facts from my recollection. Having now found the original documents, I take the liberty to enclose them to Congress, and to submit the case to their decision.

In the before mentioned communication, I believe I also omitted to include Captain Houdin (a french Gentleman who has served many years with reputation in the Masstts. Line) amongst the Officers who were desirous of being arranged in any Peace Establishment that might be adopted; in that case, I beg leave to mention him as a deserving Officer, and to place him on the same footing with the other Candidates.

With great respect etc.<sup>98</sup>

<sup>97</sup> From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>98</sup> In the writing of David Humphreys.

Jackson's letter of Nov. 19, 1783, is filed with this letter in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*.

TO THE YANKEE CLUB OF STEWARDSTOWN IN  
COUNTY TYRONE, ULSTER, IRELAND

Mount Vernon in Virginia, January 20, 1784.

Gentlemen: It is with unfeigned satisfaction I accept your Congratulation on the late happy and glorious Revolution.

The generous indignation, against the foes to the rights of human Nature, with which you seem to be animated; and the exalted sentiments of Liberty, which you appear to entertain; are too consonant to the feelings and principles of the Citizens of the United States of America, not to attract their veneration and esteem, did not the affectionate and anxious concern with which you regarded their struggle for freedom and Independence, entitle you to their more particular Acknowledgments.

If in the course of our successful contest, any good consequences have resulted to the oppressed Kingdom of Ireland, it will afford a new source of felicitation to all who respect the interests of humanity.

I am now, Gentlemen, to offer you my best thanks for the indulgent sentiments you are pleased to express of my conduct; and for your benevolent wishes respecting my personal well-fare, as well as with regard to a more interesting object, the prosperity of my Country. I have the honor, etc.<sup>99</sup>

TO THE EARL OF TANKERVILLE

Mount Vernon, January 20, 1784.

My Lord: I do not know how it happen'd but the fact is, that your Lordships favor of the 15th. of July did not reach my

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<sup>99</sup>The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys. The date line is in the writing of Washington.

In the Varick Transcripts, in the Library of Congress, is a copy of a brief note to Maj. John Davidson, dated Jan. 20, 1784, transmitting the above reply through him.



hands until the latter part of Decr. whilst I was on my return to this Seat of retirement. The Letter however which I had the honor of writing to Lady Tankerville, duplicate of which, for fear of accidents, I now inclose: will have informed her Ladyship, and I persuade myself, you My Lord, of the impracticability of my [taking]<sup>1</sup> an active and responsible part in the disposal of Mr. Bennets Estate in this Country; but if my advice, and occasional assistance to the Gentlemen who accept the trust, can be of any avail, they shall be afforded with great pleasure. Could I say more, without feeling conscious of giving assurances I should be unable to comply with, such is my willingness to serve your Lordship, and your right Hoble mother, I would do it most chearfully.

Much as I expected to find my own private concerns deranged; and intricately involved as I knew those of *some* others (which had been committed to my care) must be, I shall realize more trouble and perplexity that I apprehended (before I began the investigation) in restoring them, if it be practicable, to order. An almost entire suspension of every thing which related to my own Estate, for near nine years, has accumulated an abundance of work for me.

The second person named, My Lord, in the Power of Attorney, is miscalled it: it should be Hooe, instead of Howe. Not adverting to the probability of this circumstance, at the time I was writing to her Ladyship, must account for, and will be received I hope, as an apology for that paragraph of my Letter which professed ignorance of such a person. So soon as I discovered the mistake I arrested the power in its progress to the Attorney General, Mr. Randolph, and have now placed it in the hands of Colo. Hooe, who is an exceeding good man, and very competent to the execution of the trust which he accepts.

<sup>1</sup>The word in brackets is omitted by the copyist and is supplied as probably the

Mr. Little, whose character I have enquired into since I came home, stands exceeding well in his reputation, and may from his peculiar knowledge of the Estate, be very serviceable in the disposal of it to the best advantage.

I beg you to be assured My Lord, that no apology was necessary for the request you made to me; that I shall always feel pleasure in obliging your Lordship wherever it may be in my power, and that with great consideration and respect, I have the honor, etc.<sup>2</sup>

### TO CHEVALIER JEAN DE HEINTZ

Mount Vernon, January 21, 1784.

Sir: As soon as I had the honor of receiving your Letter containing a proposal of the order of the Knights of Divine Providence; I referred the subject of it to the decision of Congress, in my letter to that august Body dated the 28th. of August last, a copy of which is enclosed. Whereupon the United States in Congress assembled, were pleased to pass their Act of the 5th. Inst: which is properly authenticated by their Secretary, and which I have the honor of transmitting herewith.

Notwithstanding it appears to be incompatible with the principles of our national constitution to admit the introduction of any kind of Nobility, Knighthood, or distinctions of a similar nature, amongst the Citizens of our republic, yet I pray you will have the goodness to make known to the Illustrious Knights of the order of Divine providence, that we receive with the deepest gratitude and most perfect respect, this flattering mark of their attention and approbation. For the polite manner in which you have communicated the pleasure of the order, you will be pleased to accept my best acknowledgments. I have the honor, etc.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup>From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

## TO PHILIP SCHUYLER

Mount Vernon, January 21, 1784.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 20th. of Decr. found me as you conjectured by that fireside, from which I had been too long absent for my own convenience; to which I returned with the greatest avidity the moment my public avocations would permit, and from which I hope, never again to be withdrawn.

While I am here solacing myself in my retreat from the busy scenes of life, I am not only made extremely happy by the gratitude of my Countrymen in general, but particularly so by the repeated proofs of the kindness and approbation of those who have been more intimately conversant with my public transactions; and I need scarcely add that the favourable opinion of no one, is more acceptable, than that of yourself.

In recollecting the vicissitudes of fortune we have experienced, and the difficulties we have surmounted; I shall always call to mind the great assistance I have frequently received from you, both in your public and private character; May the blessings of Peace amply reward your exertions, May you, and your Family (to whom the compliments of Mrs. Washington and myself are affectionately presented) long continue to enjoy every species of happiness this world can afford. I am, etc.<sup>a</sup>

## \*TO CHARLES THOMSON

Mount Vernon, January 22, 1784.

Dear Sir: The original letter and other Papers from the Chevr. de Heintz respecting the Order of the Knights of Divine Providence, were transmitted to Congress without a Copy being taken; I am a little at a loss therefore in what manner to

<sup>a</sup>From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

direct my letter to him, more especially as I have a feint recollection that their is a mode pointed out for the Address by the Secretary himself. Let me pray you therefore, my good Sir, to examine into this matter, and after giving my letter another cover, to put it into the proper channel for conveyance. If my Commission is not necessary for the files of Congress I should be glad to have it deposited amongst my own Papers. It may serve *my Grand Children* some fifty or a hundd. years hence for a theme to ruminate upon, *if they should be* contemplatively disposed.\*

We have been so fast locked in Snow and Ice since Christmas, that all kinds of intercourse have been suspended; and a duty which I owed my Mother, and intended 'ere this to have performed, has been forced to yield to the intemperence of the Weather: but, as this again must submit to the approaching Sun, I shall soon be enabled, I expect, to discharge that duty on which Nature and inclination have a call; and shall be ready afterwards to welcome my friends to the shadow of this Vine and Fig tree; where I hope it is unnecessary to add, I should be exceedingly happy to see you, and any of *my late Masters*, now representatives. Mrs. Washington, if she knew I was writing to you in the stile of Invitation would, I am certain, adduce arguments to prove that I ought to include Mrs. Thompson; but before she should have half spun the thread of her discourse,

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\*Thomson replied (February 7): "With respect to your *commission* I have to inform you that previous to the rect of your letter it had been in agitation among the members to have an Order passed for returning it to you in a gold box. A motion has accordingly been made to that effect, wch was received with general approbation, and referred to a comtee to be drawn up in proper terms. The comtee have not yet reported. But I have not the least doubt of its being returned to you in a way that will be satisfactory and I heartily wish, that this sacred deposit may be preserved by your *children* and children's children to the latest posterity and may prove an incentive to them to emulate the virtues of their worthy and great progenitor." Thomson's letter is in the *Washington Papers*. The commission was never returned to the General. It remained with the *Papers of the Continental Congress* and is now in the Library of Congress.

it is more than probable I should have nonplused her, by yielding readily to the force of her reasoning.

With sentiments of sincere regd. etc.<sup>5</sup>

### TO JAMES NOURSE

Mount Vernon, January 22, 1784.

Sir: Yesterday gave me the honor of your favor of the 11th.<sup>6</sup> from Annapolis. I thank you for the trouble you have taken to bring me acquainted with the affairs of my deceased Brother<sup>7</sup> of Berkeley.

It would give me great pleasure to render any service to his children; and as far as I can do it by paying attention to those two who are in my neighbourhood with Mr. Griffith, I will; but to concern myself in the smallest degree with the management of their Estates, I cannot. It would be undertaking a trust which I could not discharge properly, consequently it would be wrong to engage in it. I have not only the derangement of nine years in my own private concerns to emerge from, but (what gives me infinitely more concern) those of others, for whom I have acted as Executor, by powers of Attorney &c. to extricate also, if it be practicable. Here then it is evident I have sufficient employment (more indeed than comports with that ease and freedom from trouble and care which I wish to enjoy) without undertaking any new matter.

It gives me concern to hear that my Brothers Estate is so much involved, I had no conception of it; nor do I know upon what terms he obtained the Land I sold a Mr. Pendleton. Not a farthing of the purchase money has ever yet been paid to me,

<sup>5</sup> From the *Charles Thomson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

<sup>6</sup> Not now found in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>7</sup> Samuel Washington.

nor have Deeds passed from me to any one. I wish this may be all, it is to be feared many of my rents will be found in his hands when I come to a final settlement with my Tenants they having been told, his receipts would exonerate them, while he has been requested to receive any rents which might be offered to him on my behalf. If his Books are in your hands I shall be obliged to you for a transcript of the account between us, as it stands thereon.

I shall receive nothing which may fall to me as Heir at Law to his youngest son. But if the Lawyers are clear that the right is in me, it may not be amiss to consider, whether such property had best be given to any one, or to all his children in equal proportions, or whether still better pretensions may not be in some other.

I thank you for your kind congratulations upon my return to domestic life, and am, Sir Yrs. etc.<sup>a</sup>

### TO CHEVALIER DE CHASTELLUX

Mount Vernon, February 1, 1784.

My Dear Chev: I have the honor to receive your favor of the 23d. of August from L'Orient. I hope this Letter will find you in the circle of your friends at Paris, well recovered from the fatigues of your long and wearisome inspection on the frontiers of the Kingdom.

I am at length become a private citizen of America, on the banks of the Patowmac; where under my own Vine and my own Fig-tree, free from the bustle of a camp and the intrigues of a court, I shall view the busy world, "in the calm light of mild philosophy", and with that serenity of mind, which the Soldier in his pursuit of glory, and the Statesman of fame, have

<sup>a</sup>From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

not time to enjoy. I am not only retired from all public employments; but I am retiring within myself and shall tread the private walks of life with heartfelt satisfaction.

After seeing New York evacuated by the British Forces on the 25th. of Novembr., and civil Government established in the city, I repaired to Congress, and surrendered into their hands, all my powers, with my Commission on the 23d. of Decemr. and arrived at this cottage on christmas eve, where I have been close locked up ever since in Frost and Snow. Mrs. Washington thanks you for your kind remembrance of her, and prays you to accept her best wishes. With sentiments of pure and unabated friendship, I am, etc.<sup>9</sup>

### TO SAMUEL LEWIS<sup>10</sup>

Mount Vernon, February 1, 1784.

Sir: After an absence of near nine years I am returned to my own home again, and beginning to look into my private concerns, which have undergone an almost total suspension during that period.

In my researches after papers, I find memorandums of warrants which had been put into the hands of the Surveyor of Botetourt to execute; particularly one in my own right, under the royal Proclamation of 1763 for 5000 acres, which appears to have been executed in part on the 6th. of Novr. 1774 by a survey for 2950 on the Great Kanhawa, adjoining to (what is commonly called) the Pokitellico Survey for 21,941, acres. And in a Letter of the 15th. of Feby. 1779, from Genl. Lewis (whose death I sincerely regret) I find a paragraph containing these words;

<sup>9</sup> From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>10</sup> Surveyor of Botetourt County, Va.

With regard to what you ask respecting Lands, no patents have been granted for any by the Proclamation of 63, but one which Doctr. Connelly obtained by favor of Lord Dunmore, tho' there seems no doubt of our obtaining such rights, as soon as the Land Office be opened, which is expected next meeting of the Assembly. The burning Spring is surveyed in your and my names, and shall put the plat in the Office, when opened, with some others I have in readiness. It will, for the quantity, make a good stock place, as a great proportion may be turned into meadow. The ground off the river, from the mouth of Cole river up, and particularly about the burning Spring is very high, uneven and barren, so much so that no Settlement can be made off the low-grounds of the river.

I have now to beg the favor of you Sir, to give me such further information respecting the application of my warrants which have come into your office, as it may be in your power to do; and to inform me at the same time whether the Survey of 2950 acres made for my benefit, has ever been returned to the Secretarys office: Also, whether a patent for the Tract including the burning Spring has ever been obtained, for what quantity of acres, what improvements are on it, with such other particulars as may be interesting for me to know, particularly, in what county it lies, how far it is from the Kanhawa in the nearest part, and from the mouth of Cole river, where it forms its junction with the latter.

A Letter directed to any of your acquaintances in Fredericksburg or Richmond, with a request to put it into the post office, will be sure of getting to hand, other conveyances, more than probable will be precarious. I am, etc.<sup>11</sup>

#### TO COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU

Mount Vernon, February 1, 1784.

My Dear Count: Having resigned my public trust, and with it all my public cares into the hands of Congress, I now address

<sup>11</sup>From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.



you in the character of an American Citizen from the Banks of the Potomac to which I have been retired, fast locked up by frost and snow ever since Christmas. The tranquil walks of domestic life are now begining to unfold themselves, and promise a rich harvest of pleasing contemplation, in which My Dear Count, you will make one of my most pleasing themes, as I shall recollect with pleasure, that we have been cotemporaries and fellow labourers in the cause of Liberty, and that we have lived together as brothers should do, in harmonious friendship.

I saw all the British forces embarked, and on the point of sailing before I left New York about the 4th. of Decr., I then repaired to Congress and surrendered all my public appointments, and am now just beginning to look into the deranged situation of my private concerns, which had come in for no share of my attention the last eight years.

To see you at this Seat of retirement from the bustle of the world and cares of public life, is a pleasure too great to *expect*, tho' you must allow me to *wish* it, because I can with much truth assure you, that I am with every sentiment of esteem, regard and friendship My Dear Count Your, etc.<sup>12</sup>

### TO MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE

Mount Vernon, February 1, 1784.

At length my Dear Marquis I am become a private citizen on the banks of the Potomac, and under the shadow of my own Vine and my own Fig-tree, free from the bustle of a camp and the busy scenes of public life, I am solacing myself with those tranquil enjoyments, of which the Soldier who is ever in pursuit of fame, the Statesman whose watchful days and sleepless

<sup>12</sup>From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

nights are spent in devising schemes to promote the welfare of his own, perhaps the ruin of other countries, as if this globe was insufficient for us all, and the Courtier who is always watching the countenance of his Prince, in hopes of catching a gracious smile, can have very little conception. I am not only retired from all public employments, but I am retiring within myself; and shall be able to view the solitary walk, and tread the paths of private life with heartfelt satisfaction. Envious of none, I am determined to be pleased with all; and this my dear friend, being the order for my march, I will move gently down the stream of life, until I sleep with my Fathers.

Except an introductory letter or two, and one countermanning my request respecting plate, I have not written to you since the middle of October by Genl. Duportail. To inform you at this late hour, that the city of New York was evacuated by the British forces on the 25th. of November; that the American Troops took possession of it the same day, and delivered it over to the civil authority of the State; that good order, contrary to the expectation and predictions of Gl. Carleton, his Officers and all the loyalists, was immediately established; and that the harbour of New York was finally cleared of the British flag about the 5th. or 6th. of Decemr., would be an insult to your intelligence. And to tell you that I remained eight days in New York after we took possession of the city; that I was very much hurried during that time, which was the reason I did not write to you from thence; that taking Phila. in my way, I was obliged to remain there a week; that at Annapolis, where Congress were then, and are now sitting, I did, on the 23d. of December present them my commission, and made them my last bow, and on the Eve of Christmas entered these doors an older man by near nine years, than when I left them, is very uninteresting to any but myself. Since that period, we have been

fast locked up in frost and snow, and excluded in a manner from all kinds of intercourse, the winter having been, and still continues to be, extremely severe.

I have now to acknowledge, and thank you for your favors of the 22d of July and 8th of September, both of which, altho' the first is of old date, have come to hand since my letter to you of October. The accounts contained therein of the political and commercial state of affairs as they respect America, are interesting, and I wish I could add that they were altogether satisfactory; and the agency you have had in both, particularly with regard to the free ports in France, is a fresh evidence of your unwearied endeavours to serve this country; but there is no part of your Letters to Congress My Dear Marquis, which bespeaks the excellence of your heart more plainly than that, which contains those noble and generous sentiments on the justice which is due to the faithful friends and Servants of the public; but I must do Congress the justice to declare, that as a body, I believe there is every disposition in them, not only to acknowledge the merits, but to reward the services of the army: There is a contractedness, I am sorry to add, in some of the States, from whence all our difficulties on this head, proceed; but it is to be hoped, the good sense and perseverance of the rest, will ultimately prevail, as the spirit of *meanness* is beginning to subside.

From a letter which I have just received from the Governor of this State<sup>15</sup> I expect him here in a few days, when I shall not be unmindful of what you have written about the bust, and will endeavour to have matters respecting it, placed on their proper basis. I thank you most sincerely My Dear Marqs. for your kind invitation to your house, if I should come to Paris. At present I see but little prospect of such a voyage, the

<sup>15</sup> Benjamin Harrison.

deranged situation of my private concerns, occasioned by an absence of almost nine years, and an entire disregard of all private business during that period, will not only suspend, but may put it for ever out of my power to gratify this wish. This not being the case with you, come with Madame la Fayette and view me in my domestic walks. I have often told you, and repeat it again, that no man could receive you in them with more friendship and affection than I should do; in which I am sure Mrs. Washington would cordially join me. We unite in respectful compliments to your Lady, and best wishes for your little flock. With every sentiment of esteem, Admiration and Love, I am etc.<sup>14</sup>

TO THOMAS LEWIS<sup>15</sup>

Mount Vernon, February 1, 1784.

Sir: After an absence of almost nine years, and *nearly* a total suspension of all my private concerns, I am at length set down at home; and am endeavouring to recover my business from the confusion into which it has run during that period.

Among other matters which require my attention, indeed in which I need information, is the state of the Lands which I am entitled to in my own right, and by purchase under the royal Proclamation in 1763, (west of the mountains). My papers are so mixed, and in such disorder at this time, occasioned by frequent hasty removals of them out of the way of the Enemy, that I cannot, (it being likely too, that some of them are lost) by the assistance of my memory, come at a thorough knowledge of that business. In a Letter which I have come across, from Capt. William Crawford, who appears to have acted as your Deputy, dated the 8th of May 1774 I find these words

<sup>14</sup>From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>15</sup>Surveyor of Augusta County, Va.

"Inclosed you have the Drafts of the round Bottom and your Shurtees Land, done agreeably to Mr. Lewis's direction." For the latter, I have found a patent signed by Lord Dunmore the 5th day of July 1774, for 2813 acres; but the other is<sup>16</sup> yet in my possession, and I am unable from any recollection I have of the matter, to account for it, unless it shou'd have been arrested there by some very ungenerous, and unjustifiable attempts of different people, at different times, to disturb me in my right to it, a right, I will venture to say, which is founded upon the first discovery of the Land, the first improvement of it; the first survey, and for ought I know, the *only* report by authority that ever was made of it; which will be found in the words of the enclosed copy, the recital of which, if I mistake not, is in your own hand writing, and the whole with your signature.

I have an imperfect recollection that in the year 1774, I sent a young man (of the name of Young,<sup>17</sup> who at that time lived with me) to you on the business of these Lands; but not having as yet met with any letter from you, or report from him on the subject, I am unable with precision, to recollect the particular matters with which he was charged, or the result of his journey. This then is one of the points on which I want information, and it is one of the inducements to my giving you the trouble of this letter.

Another is, to know if I have any warrants in your hands unexecuted, it appearing from two Bonds in my possession, one from a Capt. Roots<sup>18</sup> for 3000 acres; the other from Lieut: (now, or lately the revd. Mr.) Thruston<sup>19</sup> for 2000 more; that I ought (if I have not been neglectful in taking them out) to have warrts. somewhere for 5000 acres under the proclamation

<sup>16</sup> The word "not" apparently omitted by the copyist.

<sup>17</sup> George Young.

<sup>18</sup> Capt. John Roots.

<sup>19</sup> Charles Mynn Thruston.

of 1763, of which no locations, that have come to my knowledge, have yet been made.

Another thing of which I wish to be informed is, whether there are any surveys or locations in your Office, for the Land immediately at the point of fork between the little Kanhawa (upper side) and the Ohio; and in that case, in whose names they are made. The reason for the latter enquiry is, that Capt. Crawford in a letter of the 12th. of Novr 1773, (an extract from which I herewith enclose, as I also do a copy of the survey, which he actually made at that place) proposed to locate this spot for his own benefit and mine. And I am the more solicitous in this enquiry, as it appears by a subsequent Letter of his to me, that there was some difficulty in the way of his obtaining a warrant from Lord Dunmore for the part he expected to get himself. If this difficulty continued to exist until his death, so as to prevent his location; and provided there are no better pretensions than mine; I should be glad to lay the two warrants before mentioned (to wit, Roots's and Thruston's) on this spot. I would be understood however, explicitly to mean, that it is not my wish, in the smallest degree to injure my much regretted friend Crawford, or any person claiming under him by this application; but if the road is open, to learn only from you, by what mode I am to obtain it; having the above rights for 5000 acres, which were in whole or part designed for this very spot, yet to locate.<sup>20</sup>

It might seem proper, before I conclude to make an apology for the trouble the compliance with these several requests will give you; but persuading myself you will consider the situation I have been in for many years, as a reasonable excuse, I conceive it is altogether unnecessary my good Sir to offer one. I

<sup>20</sup> See Washington's letter to John Harvie, Feb. 10, 1784, *post*.

shall only request the favor therefore, of an answer, and your care of the inclosed letter to your nephew, (who I find has made one survey for me in Botetourt) or to the Surveyor of that County.

On the Death of your Brother, Genl. Lewis, I most sincerely condole with you, as I had, while he was living a sincere friendship and regard for him. I am, &c.

P. S. An answer under cover to some acquaintance of yours in Fredericksg. or Richmond, with a request to put the Letter into the post office will be certain of getting to hand, otherwise, unless an opportunity shou'd offer directly to Alexandria, the chances are against my ever receiving it.<sup>21</sup>

#### TO DUC DE LAUZUN

Mount Vernon, February 1, 1784.

My Dear Duke: I have had the pleasure to receive your favor of the 11th. of Octor. from L'Orient: every testimony which you give of my holding a place in your remembrance, is as pleasing as it is flattering to me; and I pray you not to deprive me of them.

After seeing the British forces withdrawn from New York, and Civil Government established there, I repaired to Congress (at Annapolis) and surrendered into their hands all my public employments. I am now a private citizen on the banks of the Potomac, meditating amidst Frost and snow (which at present encompass me) upon the structure of walks for private life; in any of which I should be happy to meet you, but in none with more pleasure than at this seat of retirement from the bustle of the busy world.

<sup>21</sup>From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

As I feel myself interested in every thing that concerns you, permit me to congratulate you with the warmth which friendship dictates, upon your late promotion;<sup>22</sup> and to assure you that I derived much pleasure from the accts. you have given me of it. Mrs. Washington accepts your kind remembrance of her with gratitude, and offers best wishes in return. My Compliments are presented to Count Dillon, and the other Officers of your Corps with whom I have the honor of an acquaintance; and with sentiments of the greatest regard and esteem, I have the honor, etc.<sup>23</sup>

TO GOVERNOR LUIS DE UNZAGA Y AMEZAGA<sup>24</sup>

Mount Vernon, February 4, 1784.

Sir: The Gentleman who will have the honor of presenting this Letter to your Excellency, is Genl. Stewart, an Officer of distinguished merit in the American Army; having embarked amongst the foremost in the cause of his Country, and persevered in the service of it with equal credit to himself and advantage to her, until the happy [re-establishment of peace, in the acknowledgment of our Independence and Sovereignty.

He proposes soon to make a Voyage to Europe, but wishing, previously thereto, to visit a place so remarkable and so well known to this Country as the Havana, I have taken the liberty of introducing him to your Excellency's countenance and Civilities, during his stay there. He will repeat to you, the assurances of respect and consideration with which I have the honor, etc.]<sup>25</sup>

<sup>22</sup>The appointment to Major General of Horse.

<sup>23</sup>From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>24</sup>Of Cuba.

<sup>25</sup>From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*. The portion in brackets is taken from a facsimile of the last page of the original.



## To EDMUND RANDOLPH

Mount Vernon, February 10, 1784.

Dear Sir: A short time before I came home I received a power of Attorney from the Earl of Tankerville, and his Brother, the Honble Mr. Bennett; authorising Colo. Hooe, (miscalled Howe) yourself and me, to dispose of property belonging to the latter in this State. Letters, from Lord Tankerville and the Countess his mother, to me, accompanied the Power, expressive of their wishes that I would accept the trust; but the deranged situation of my own private concerns, which have in a manner undergone a complete suspension of almost nine years, and the intricately involved Affairs of some others, which, unfortunately for them, and painful in the reflection to me, were committed to my care; puts it absolutely out of my power to engage in any new matter, without violence to my own convenience, and injury to those I have in hand. Of this I have informed her Ladyship and my Lord; at the same time I assured them that the trust could not be reposed in better hands than Colo. Hooe's (who consents to act and has the power) and yours, who I took the liberty to say, would either accept the appointment or inform them of the contrary. Mrs. Washington joins me in best respects to Mrs. Randolph, and with great truth and sincere friendship, I am, etc.<sup>26</sup>

To JOHN HARVIE<sup>27</sup>

Mount Vernon, February 10, 1784.

Sir: After an absence of almost nine years from home, and a total suspension, as it were to all my private concerns during

<sup>26</sup> From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>27</sup> Register of the Virginia Land Office at Richmond.

that period, I am now endeavouring to obtain a knowledge of my affairs and to put my business in some kind of order again. The deranged situation of my papers (occasioned by frequent hasty removals of them out of the enemy's reach) makes it more difficult to affect these, than it otherwise would be; but by some memoms. I have lately met with, it would seem that several Land Warrants which I had obtained from Lord Dunmore in my own right, and by purchase from Capt. John Roots and Lieut. (now, or lately the revd. Mr.) Thruston under the Royal Proclamation of 1763, amounting in the whole to 10,000 acres, have, or ought to have been placed in the hands of the Surveyor of Augusta, Botetourt or Fincastle, or partly in all, for execution; but having come across nothing as yet which points precisely to the appropriation of them, and as the offices for those Counties are at a great distance from me, and possibly the Surveyors of them unknown, as there may have been changes within the period above mentioned to which I am a stranger; I take the liberty to enquire of you, Sir, whether any Surveys, consequent of these warrants, have been returned to the Land Office since the beginning of the year 1774, in my name; besides one for 2813 acres which I have found a patent for, previous to that date. There were many Surveys made by Capt: Wm. Crawford, (specially appointed for the purpose) and for which Patents have issued, they being for the 200,000 acres granted by the Proclamation of Govr. Dinwiddie in the year 1754; which I mention that you may not be misled in your researches, by a discovery of these.

If upon examination of the Surveyors reports you should find my Surveys subsequent to the above date, in my name, or in partnership with others, (for I expected to be joined with Genl. Andrew Lewis in a small tract on the waters of the *Great Kanhawa*, including a burning Spring; and with Wm.

Crawford in a tract at the confluence of the *little* Kanhawa and Ohio) I shall thank you for information thereof. And as there was some difficulty in the way of the latter, I shou'd be obliged to you for acquainting me if a survey of this spot has ever been returned, in the name of any other person, to the office. It being at the point of fork, will render the search easy, and as one Doctr. Brisco<sup>28</sup> set us a claim to it, his name, or that of Michael Cresap of Maryland who appears to have had pretensions of some kind or another to every good spot in the country, may render the search more easy. You will please to advert to the circumstance of there being two Kanhawa's; and that this is distinguished by the appellation of the Little Kanhawa.

Having mentioned the name of Cresap, it reminds me of another matter which I must also request the favor of you to give me information upon, it is, whether if he has had any Surveys returned to the Land Office of this State, among them is one for about five or six hundred acres for a tract which is well known, and distinguished by the name of the round bottom on the Ohio, opposite to Pipe Creek, and a little above a creek called Capteening? He has, I find, arrested my Survey of it for 587 acres, made under all the legal forms and upon proper warrants, for no better reason that I could ever learn, than because it was a good bottom and convenient for him to possess it, and had it in his power to do it with impunity.

The length of time which I have been out of the State, and the changes which may have happened in the Constitution of it since, may render these requests to you Sir, altogether improper; should this really be the Case, it makes an apology to you on my part necessary for the trouble of this application; but I must still pray your compliance with the requests; presuming, if the Land office should have been separated from

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<sup>28</sup>Dr. John Briscoe. (See Washington's letter to Dr. John Briscoe, Dec. 3, 1772, *ante*.)

that of the Secretary's, it is nevertheless kept at Richmond, where you can have recourse to the records of it without much trouble, the doing of which would save time to me, and render a second application from *me* to any other office unnecessary. I am, etc.<sup>29</sup>

### TO JOHN STEPHENSON

Fredericksburg, February 13, 1784.

Dear Sir: After condoling with you on the unhappy fate of your Brother William, which I do very sincerely; and upon the Death of your brother Vale.,<sup>30</sup> I should be glad to get a copy from both their Books, or Memos. of the accounts as they stand between us; which are of long standing, and I fear not a little intricate. I write to you Sir, because I do not know (if you are not one yourself) who are the Executors or Administrators of those deceased Gentlemen. There were also some Land transactions, in partnership and otherwise between your Brother William and me, which I wish to have an account of. If it is in your power therefore, or you should have come across any warrants, Entries, Memoms. or papers relative to this business, which can give me insight into the matter, I shall be much obliged to you for the information.

There is also a Bond in my possession from your deceased brother Hugh (for whose Death I am also very much concerned) with your name, or that of your brother James's to it (I am not certain which as I am from home, and have accidentally met with this good and direct opportunity) for a Sum of money due to me from your Fathers Estate; which I wish to know when it can be settled and paid, as the situation of my private Affairs makes it absolutely necessary to close my Accounts and to receive payment as soon as possible. I am, etc.<sup>31</sup>

<sup>29</sup> From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>30</sup> Valentine Stephenson.

## To WILLIAM DREW

Fredericksburg, February 13, 1784.

Sir: In the course of the last eight months, I have addressed two or three letters to you, praying an authenticated copy of the deceased Major Genl. Lee's Will: this I did consequent of a request from his Sister in England to me. Not having received the copy wrote for, nor any acknowledgment of my Letters, I presume the latter have never reached your hands. I therefore give you the trouble of this Letter by Mr. Throckmorton<sup>21</sup> who has promised the safe conveyance of it to your Office. I wish to be favored, as soon as convenient, with the Will in the manner she requires; the cost of which I will pay when you exhibit the charge. I wou'd send the money by Mr. Throckmorton if I knew what would be the amount of the charge. I am, etc.<sup>22</sup>

## To GILBERT SIMPSON

Fredericksburg, February 13, 1784.

Mr. Simpson: Having closed all my transactions with the public, it now behooves me to look into my own private business, no part of which seems to call louder for attention, than my concerns with you. How profitable our partnership has been, *you best can tell*; and how advantageous my Mill has been, none can tell so well as *yourself*.

If however I am to credit the report, not only of one, but every body from that country, I ought to have a good deal of wealth in your hands, arising from the produce of it; because all agree, that it is the best Mill, and has had more custom than any other on the west side the Alleghaney Mountains; I expect something very handsome therefore from that quarter. I want

<sup>21</sup> Albion(?) Throckmorton.

<sup>22</sup> From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

a full settlement of this Account from the beginning, clearly stated. I also require a full and complete settlement of our Partnership accounts, where in every article of debit is to be properly supported by vouchers; and the sums receivd. to be mentioned for what and from whom they were received. In a word I expect every thing relating to the partnership, as well as my individual and separate interests, will appear clear and satisfactory. And as I expect to leave home for a pretty long trip, before or at furthest by middle of April, I think it incumbent upon you to make this settlement previous to it, especially as the world does not scruple to say that you have been much more attentive to your own interest than to mine. But I hope your Accots. will give the lie to these reports, by shewing that something more than your own emolument was intended by the partnership; and that you have acted like an honest, industrious and frugal man for the mutual interest of us both; which will justify the opinion I entertained of you at the time of our agreement, and would be complying with the conditions and professed intention of our associating together.<sup>33</sup>

This Letter will be certain of getting into your hands in the course of ten or twelve days, as it goes by my nephew,<sup>34</sup> who I met with at this place, where I had come on a visit; and who is on his way to Fort pitt, &c. The enclosure for Major Stephenson (Brother to the late Colo. Crawford) I wish to have put into his own hands if living; if otherwise, into the hands of Executor or Administrator of Colo. Crawford; as the contents of it relate principally to some matters between that deceased Gentleman and me.<sup>35</sup> I am, &c.<sup>36</sup>

<sup>33</sup> Ford notes that in December, 1890, a package of 79 pieces of Virginia paper money, of various denominations, was sold at auction in Philadelphia, with a wrapper bearing an indorsement in the writing of Washington, "Given in by Gilb. Simpson, 19 June, 1784, to G. Washington."

<sup>34</sup> John Lewis.

<sup>35</sup> Simpson's answer to this letter, dated Apr. 27, 1784, is in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>36</sup> From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

## MEMORANDUM TO JOHN LEWIS

February 14, 1784.

G. Washington would be obliged to Mr. Lewis for delivering, or causing to be deliver'd by a safe hand, the Letter accompanying this, to Mr. Gilbert Simpson, and if he goes by his house to Fort Pitt, for observing the size, and condition of his Plantation: and the condition of the Mill, and for enquiring how many Tenants he has placed on the Land, for how long a term, and upon what Rents. Whether there is any person living upon a small Tract he holds at the Great Meadows; what sort of an improvement is thereon, of whom the person took it and upon what terms. And should Mr. Lewis have a favourable opportunity, the General would be obliged to him for informing those Settlers upon his tract West of the Monongahela, on the waters of Shurtee's and Raccoon creeks<sup>27</sup> that he has a patent for the Land, dated the 5th. day of July 1774; that he will most assuredly assert his right to it; but, in consideration of their having made improvements thereon ignorantly, or under a mistaken belief, founded in false assertions, that the Land did not belong to him, he is willing that they should remain upon it as Tenants, upon a just and moderate Rent, such as he and they can agree upon. The like may be said to any Person or Persons who may be settled at a place called the Round Bottom, on the Ohio opposite Pipe Creek and a little above a Creek called Capteening, which has been surveyed by the county Surveyor of Augusta upon proper Warrants from Lord Dunmore, ever since the 14th. day of July 1773.

If Mr. Lewis can discover by indirect means who would be a fit Agent in the Neighbourhood of Fort Pitt to charge with the

<sup>27</sup> Known also as Miller's Run. It was part of 3,000 acres purchased by Washington of Posey, and was surveyed Mar. 23, 1771.

seating and leasing the Generals Lands in that country without holding up Ideas to them which may lead any one to expect the appointment; he would thank him for the information.

Such parts of these requests as can be complied with before his departure from Fort Pitt, the General would be obliged by receiving them (in a letter) from that place, as he is desirous of getting some knowledge of his affairs in that Country, as soon as possible.<sup>88</sup>

\*TO THE MAYOR AND COMMONALTY OF  
FREDERICKSBURG

[Fredericksburg, February 14, 1784.]

Gentlemen: With the greatest pleasure, I receive, in the character of a private Citizen, the honor of your Address.<sup>89</sup>

To a beneficent Providence, and to the fortitude of a brave and virtuous Army, supported by the general exertion of our common Country I stand indebted for the plaudits you now bestow; The reflection however, of having met the congratulating smiles and approbation of my fellow-Citizens for the part I have acted in the cause of liberty and Independence cannot fail of adding pleasure to the sweets of domestic life; and my sensibility of them is heightened by their coming from the respectable Inhabitants of the place of my growing Infancy and the honorable mention wch. is made of my revered Mother; by whose Maternal hand (early deprived of a Father) I was led from Childhood.

For the expressions of personal Affection and attachment, and for your kind wishes for my future welfare, I offer grateful thanks and my sincere prayers for the happiness and prosperity of the Corporate Town of Fredericksburgh.

<sup>88</sup> From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>89</sup> The address, undated, is in the *Washington Papers* under date of Feb. 14, 1784.



To JAMES MILLIGAN<sup>40</sup>

Mount Vernon, February 18, 1784.

Sir: The intemperance of the weather, and the great care which the post riders seemed disposed to take of themselves, while it continued severe; prevented your Letter of the 13th. of last month from reaching my hands 'till the 10th. of this. I now acknowledge the receipt of it, with the accounts as they stand stated in the Treasury Books; for your trouble in transcribing which (it being unusual) you will please to accept my thanks, as the possession of them is pleasing, and may be useful to me.

The charge of fifty guineas paid James McCall Esqr. for the Revd. Mr. Smith,<sup>41</sup> is perfectly just, and ought not to have been omitted by me, for I well recollect it was the desire of Mr. Morris, that this sum might be carried to the credit of my public Accots., and I certainly meant to do it, altho' it has been omitted. For the act of justice which you have rendered, in allowing me interest upon 591 31/90 Dollars, I am much indebted to you: the same reason which induced an allowance of interest on the Balce. of my Accot. to Jany. 1777, prevailed in this case also; but as the principal was rescued from error, and brought into a subsequent Accot., I never thought about interest; and am altogether indebted to your attention and correctness for the discovery and credit.

In the statement of my Accots., I thought a note had accompanied the articles charged where the money had been accounted for; but in this I am either mistaken, or do not perfectly comprehend your manner of entry; from which, to me it would seem, that Saml. B. Webb, Ebenr. Gray, Josiah

<sup>40</sup> Comptroller of the Treasury of the United States.

<sup>41</sup> Rev. William Smith.

Fessendon, Elijah Bennet, Capt. Calmly<sup>42</sup> and John Philips in Accot. A. Colo. Weedon, for 500 Dollars (but this sum is again credited), Wm. Dunn, Josh. Hunter, Hugh Mooney, John Miller and Chal. Tatum, in Accot. C. And Capt. Colfax and Lt. Howe in Accot. D, were to be charged in Accots. raised, or to be raised, with the several sums annexed to their respective names; whereas the money in every one of these enumerated instances has been paid for services actually performed, or upon Accots. which have been settled with me. I am thus particular Sir, because it would give me pain, if thro' any inaccuracy in my statement, either of these persons should be involved in trouble, difficulty or expence, by a future call upon them. Captn. Colfax, as you may perceive from his Accots. which I render'd as vouchers to my own, gave the public credit for all the sums he stands charged with by me; among which is that for £171.18., and closes the whole with a transfer of the money in his hands to Mr. Howe. Mr. Howe also, as will appear in his accounts, settled the Expenditures for family purposes with me in November last; at the time I broke up House-keeping and discharged my household; and if I recollect right, was a Creditor instead of a Debtor to the public.

I shall take notice in this Letter, because it is not my wish to encrease the troubles of your Office by making a distinct application hereafter, that in Accot. B. I stand charged with the sums of £124.7.8 and £133.16.0 which have no existence in the Treasury Books, or elsewhere. The first sum I well remember to have received; the time and circumstances of it being too remarkable ever to be forgotten by me.<sup>43</sup> But the other sum of £133.16. I must confess I have no recollection of the receipt of it; but having found in my pocket Memo. Book, a short and

<sup>42</sup> Capt. Myles(?) Oakley (Calmly).

<sup>43</sup> This sum, in specie, was received from Robert Morris Jan. 1, 1777, the day before the battle of the Assunpink at Trenton, N. J.

blind entry to that effect, I placed it to the credit of the public Accot., altho' no trace of it remains in my memory, or any Accot. of it could be found elsewhere; with a request (in a Note at bottom) that the matter might be enquired into, and justice done. It occurs to me, that about the period of that credit, I borrowed a sum in specie of the Marqs. de la Fayette (as I had done of others when the exigencies of the public pressed) and that he and my nephew Geo: Augte. Washington got off for Philadelphia a few days afterwards: 'tis *possible* therefore I might have written for money by him, and that that sum may have been charg'd to his accot., but if this is not the case, and no such sum can be found charged to me in any of the public Offices, of that date, under any form whatsoever, I submit it to the consideration of yourself, or to the Superintendent of Finance whether I ought to be debited with it at all; because it is as likely that the error may have originated in a wrong credit on my part, as in the omission to charge it, on that of the public; especially as I have received several sums at different time on my private account, as well as other sums for the use of Colo. Fairfax (whose business I had in my hands several years before the War), all of which I applied to public uses, whenever the public had a call for it, without attending to the property, or propriety of the measure. Upon this state of the matter, which is a very candid one, I should be glad to have your sentiments, and those of the Financer. I am perfectly willing to give the public credit for every thing that is due, but it does not comport with my circumstances to do more, or even to lie out of money which I may with propriety call to my aid.

The Account of my expenditures in Philadelphia and on my return home, I transmitted many days previous to the receipt of your Letter to Mr. Morris, and presume it is in your Office long before this; and that I shall have the pleasure of receiving,

as in the case of the former, an official statement of it from the Treasury books.

For the honor of your kind congratulations on the great events which have taken place, and my return to domestic life, be pleased to accept my grateful thanks, and best wishes, in return. I am, etc.<sup>44</sup>

### TO ELIAS BOUDINOT

Mount Vernon, February 18, 1784.

Dear Sir: With equal emotions of pleasure and gratitude I received your very polite Letter of the 11th. ulto. from Elizabeth-town, the late acknowledgment of which is owing to the interruption of the post, and a visit to my aged Mother; the last of which engaged me several days, and from which I only returned yesterday.

The private congratulations of friendship, upon my safe return to a peaceful abode, and the sweets of Domestic retirement, never can, with me, be lost in the midst of public ceremonies; and they are received with more pleasure when they are known to flow from a source which has always been the same. The affectionate terms therefore, in which your Letter is expressed, could not fail to affect all my sensibility and to call for a return of my warmest thanks, these I offer most sincerely.

We have now a goodly field before us, and I have no wish superior to that of seeing it judiciously cultivated; that every Man, especially those who have laboured to prepare it, may reap a fruitful Harvest without the intermixture of Tares; the seeds of which I am sure are too apparent to be sown by a skilful husbandman, who possesses a disposition to be honest.

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<sup>44</sup>From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

It was with extreme pain I read that part of your Letter which speaks of the declining State of Miss Boudinots health. As the intemperence of the weather may have contributed thereto, so it is to be hoped the approaching season will remove the causes of the complaint, and restore her to good health, and to her friends; in this wish, and in most affectionate Compliments to Mrs. Boudinot and yourself, Mrs. Washington heartily joins.

With the greatest sincerity and truth, I am, etc.<sup>48</sup>

#### TO MRS. ANNIS BOUDINOT STOCKTON

Mount Vernon, February 18, 1784.

Dr. Madam: The intemperate weather, and the very great care which the post riders take of themselves, prevented your Letter of the 4th. of last month<sup>49</sup> from reaching my hands 'till the 10th. of this: I was then in the very act of setting off on a visit to my aged mother, from whence I am just returned. These reasons I beg leave to offer, as an apology for my silence 'till now.

It would be a pity indeed, My dear Madam, if the Muses should be restrained in you. I have only to lament that the hero of your poetical talents, is not more deserving of their lays. I cannot however, from motives of false delicacy (because I happen to be the principal character in your pastoral) withhold my encomiums on the performance for I think, the easy, simple and beautiful strains with which the Dialogue is supported do great justice to your genius, and will not only secure Lucinda and Aminta from Wits and Critic's, but draw from them, however unwillingly, their highest plaudits, if they can

<sup>48</sup>From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>49</sup>Not now found in the *Washington Papers*.

relish the praises that are given, as highly as they must admire the manner of bestowing them.

Mrs. Washington, equally sensible with myself, of the honor you have done her, joins me in most affectionate compliments to yourself, the young Ladies and Gentlemen of your family. With sentiments of esteem, regard and respect, I have the honor, etc.<sup>47</sup>

#### TO BOINOD & GAILLARD<sup>48</sup>

Mount Vernon, February 18, 1784.

Gentlemen: I have been favored with your polite and obliging Letter of January the 20th., and thank you for the many flattering sentiments contained in it.

To encourage Literature and the Arts, is a duty which every good Citizen owes to his Country, and if I could be instrumental in promoting these, and in aiding your endeavours to do the like, it would give me pleasure.

Your Books being chiefly in a foreign Language (which I do not understand) and my Library containing the most valuable of those which are named in the English catalogue, my demand will be small; but if those mentioned below are yet in your Store, they may be laid by, or sent to me as occasion offers, and the cost shall be paid to your Order. I am, etc.

An Accot. of the new Northn., Archipelago, by M. I. Von Strahlin. 8 Vos., The Histry. of the Ud. provinces of the Netherlands by Wm. Lothian, 4to. A review of the characters of the principal Nations in Europe, 2 Vols, 8 vo. Hermes, or a phloe. enquiry, concerning Languages &ca. by J. H. 8 vo. The true French master, or rules for the Fh. tongue by Mr. Cheneau

<sup>47</sup> From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>48</sup> Of Philadelphia, Pa.

of Paris, 8 vo The new pocket Docty. of the Fh. and Eng: lange. by Thos. Nugent 2 vols. 8 vo A course of Gallantires, translated from the Fréh. of M. Duclos 2 parts, 8 vo. The rise, progress and prest. state of the Northn. Govts. by I. Williams Esqr. 2 Vols. 4to.\*

\*TO MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Mount Vernon, February 20, 1784.

My dear Sir: The bad weather, and the great care which the Post Riders take of themselves, prevented your letters of the 3d. and 9th. of last month from getting to my hands 'till the 10th. of this. Setting off next Morning for Fredericksburgh to pay my duty to an aged Mother, and not returning 'till yesterday, will be admitted I hope, as a sufficient apology for my silence 'till now.

I am much obliged by the trouble you have taken to report the state of the Garrison and Stores, together with the disposition of the Troops at West-Point, to me, and think the allowance of Rations, or subsistence money to such Officers as could not retire at that inclement season, was not only perfectly humane, but perfectly just. and that it must appear so to Congress.

It would seem to me, without having recourse to calculation, that the allowance of a Majr. General in a seperate department, to the person who shall discharge the duties of Secretary at War, Master of Ordnance, and Commanding Officer of the Forces which may be retained, or Raised for a Peace Establishment is as low as it well can be. I expect the President and some Members of Congress here in a day or two, and will tell them so.

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\*From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

It was amongst my first Acts after I got home, to write to the President of each State Society, appointing Philadelphia (and the first Monday in May) for the general meeting of the Cincinnati. Colo. Walker took with him all the Letters for those Eastward of this, before New Years day; the others for the Southward, I dispatched by the Post about the sametime; I have even sent duplicates for fear of miscarriage; yet 'though it is the most eligable method, it is to be feared it will not prove so effectual a communication, as a general notification in the public Gazettes would have been. And, in case of failure, I shall be exceedingly concerned for not having adopted the most certain; as it would give me pleasure to have the first general meeting, a very full one. I have named Philadelphia (contrary to my own judgment, as it is not Central) to comply with the wishes of South Carolina, who, being the most Southern State, have desired it. North Carolina I have not heard a tittle from, nor any thing Official from New Hampshire. all the other States have acceded very unanimously to the propositions which were sent from the Army.

I am just beginning to experience that ease, and freedom from public cares which, however desirable, takes some time to realize; for strange as it may tell, it is nevertheless true, that it was not 'till lately I could get the better of my usual custom of ruminating as soon as I waked in the Morning, on the business of the ensuing day; and of my surprize, after having revolved many things in my mind, to find that I was no longer a public Man, or had any thing to do with public transactions.

I feel now, however, as I conceive a wearied Traveller must do, who, after treading many a painful step, with a heavy burden on his shoulders, is eased of the latter, having reached the Goal to which all the former were directed; and from his



House top is looking back, and tracing with a grateful eye the Meanders by which he escaped the quicksands and Mires which lay in his way; and into which none but the All-powerful guide, and great disposer of human Events could have prevented his falling.

I shall be very happy, and I hope I shall not be disappointed, in seeing you at the proposed meeting in Philadelphia. The friendship I have conceived for you will not be impaired by absence, but it may be no unpleasing circumstance to brighten the Chain, by a renewal of the Covenant. My best wishes attend Mrs. Knox and the little folks, in which Mrs. Washington most heartily joins me. With every sentiment of the purest esteem &c.

P. S. I hope Genl Greene will be in the Delegation from Rhode Island, and that we shall see him at the Genl meeting of the Cincinnati; will you intimate this to him. [MS. H. S.]

### TO DANIEL McCARTY

Mount Vernon, February 22, 1784.

Dr. Sir: It is not convenient for me to be at Colchester tomorrow, and as I shall no longer act as a vestryman,<sup>80</sup> the sooner my place is filled with another the better. This letter, or something more formal if required, may evidence my resignation, and authorize a new choice.

I shall be very sorry if your apprehensions on account of the poor should be realized, but have not the Church-Wardens power to provide for their relief? And may not those Vestrymen who do meet, supposing the number insufficient to constitute a *legal* Vestry, express their sentiments on this head to

<sup>80</sup> Of Truro Parish, Va.

the Wardens? Nay go further, and from the exigency of the case, give directions for the temporary relief of the needy and distressed. As a Vestryman or as a private parishioner, I should have no scruple to do either under such circumstances as you have described.

Mrs. Washington joins in compliments and best wishes for you, Mrs. McCarty and family with Dr. Sir Your, etc.<sup>61</sup>

### TO RICHARD VARICK

Mount Vernon, February 22, 1784.

Dear Sir: The intemperate season and irregularity of the post withheld your Letter of the 15th. ulto., from me 'till within these few days. There needed no apology for delay in the adjustment of your Accots., your punctuality is too well known to admit a doubt that this would happen without sufficient cause.

I received great pleasure from the account which you have given me of Doctor La Moyeur's operation on you, and congratulate you very sincerely on the success. I shall claim your promise of relating the sequel, for I confess I have been staggered in my belief in the efficacy of transplantation,<sup>62</sup> being more disposed to think that the *Operator* is partial to his own performances, and the persons operated upon, in general are inclined to compliment; or having submitted to the operation, are somewhat unwilling to expose the truth. but your accot. I can; I will rely upon.

If contrary to expectation this Letter should find Doctr. La Moyeur in New York, let me pray you to present my compliments to him, and tell him that his letter of the 20th. is at

<sup>61</sup> From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>62</sup> Of living teeth.

hand; that I should have answered it, but for the information he there gave me, of his intention of setting out in a few days for Virginia; and that I shall whenever it is convenient to him, and not before, be very glad to see him at this Seat, where he, as you would at all times, meet a cordial and welcome reception. I thank you very sincerely for your kind congratulations on my return to the tranquil walks of private life. I shall always be glad to hear from you, and shall depend upon you for the relation of the remarkable occurrences in your Hemisphere. Mrs. Washington joins me in best wishes for yourself, and compliments to the Govr. Mrs. C.<sup>53</sup> and Family. I am, etc.<sup>54</sup>

\*To ARTHUR ST. CLAIR

Mount Vernon, February 22, 1784.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 29th. of Jany. in answer to my circular Letter of the 28th. of Decr. is at hand. I am sorry to find by it, that so many Delegates from your State Society are likely to be Non-attendants at the General Meeting in May. It would have an odd appearance (whatever may be the causes) for the Society of the State, in which the General Meeting is held, to be unrepresented upon such an occasion; and it would give me concern, I confess, to find any so; for it is my wish that the first meeting (at least) may be full. Not only for the purpose of bare representation then, but that the Abilities of the Society of Cincinnati may be convened at that time, I hope your business elsewhere may, without much inconvenience, be made to yield to this call for your attendance. With great truth and sincerity, I am etc.

<sup>53</sup>Governor and Mrs. Clinton.

<sup>54</sup>From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

TO DOLPHIN DREW<sup>65</sup>

Mount Vernon, February 25, 1784.

Sir: Yesterday evening brought me your favor of the 13th.

Two things induced me to Lease my Lands in small tenements; the first was to accommodate weak handed people who were not able to purchase, thereby inviting and encouraging a number of useful Husbandmen and Mechanicks to settle among us: The other, that I might have them restored to me at the expiration of the term for wch. they were granted, in good order and well improved. One step towards which was to prevent a shift of property without my consent, and a covenant was inserted in the Leases accordingly.

From the first I laid it down as a maxim, that no person who possessed Lands adjoining, should hold any of mine as a Lease, and for this obvious reason, that the weight of their labour, and burden of the crops, whilst it was in a condition to bear them, would fall upon my Land, and the improvement upon his own, in spite of all the covenants which could be inserted to prevent it. Having no cause to depart from this opinion, and without meaning to apply the observation particularly to Mr. Throckmorton,<sup>66</sup> whose person and character are entirely unknown to me, he must excuse me for declaring in very explicit terms, that I will not suffer his purchase of Collet, to be carried into effect. of this, Mr. Lund Washington who was acquainted with my sentiments on all these matters, and who superintended my business, informs me he acquainted Mr. Throckmorton (hearing he was about to purchase) either directly or by means of his acquaintance in September last: he has not paid his money therefore, or erred in this business, without warning of the consequences.

<sup>65</sup> Of Berkeley County, Va.

<sup>66</sup> Albion Throckmorton.

A good price and ready money might induce me to part with the fee-simple of Collet's Lot, perhaps of the other also. Without these I do not incline to sell as Lands are rising very fast in their price; which will be enhanced by the emigration of Foreigners, and the demand for them. I am, &c.<sup>87</sup>

### TO ISAAC COLLETT<sup>88</sup>

Mount Vernon, February 25, 1784.

Mr. Collett: It would have been quite as proper to have written about the payment of your Rents, as a transfer of the Lease. When the Averages of the former are discharged, it is very probable I shall have no objection to the latter, provided it is to a purchaser who means to reside on, and will improve the Land. Until these happen I shall consent to no sale at all, and advise you to attend to the first, Your humble Servant.

### TO FIELDING LEWIS<sup>89</sup>

Mount Vernon, February 27, 1784.

Dear Fieldg.: You very much mistake my circumstances when you suppose me in a condition to advance money. I made no money from my Estate during the nine years I was absent from it, and brought none home with me. those who owed me, for the most part, took advantage of the depreciation and paid me off with six pence in the pound. those to whom I was indebted, I have yet to pay, without other means, if they will not wait, than selling part of my Estate; or distressing

<sup>87</sup> From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>88</sup> He lived at the head of Bull Skin, in Berkeley County, Va.

On February 25 Washington wrote a brief note to Chevalier de La Luzerne, thanking him for forwarding a letter from Lafayette, and regretting that Luzerne did not come to Mount Vernon. This copy is in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>89</sup> Son of Betty Washington.

those who were too honest to take advantage of the tender Laws to quit scores with me.

This relation of my circumstances, which is a true one, is alone sufficient (without adding that my living under the best œconomy I can use, must unavoidably be expensive,) to convince you of my inability to advance money.

I have heard with pleasure that you are industrious. Convince people by your mode of living that you are sober and frugal also; and I persuade myself your creditors will grant you every indulgence they can. It would be no small inducement to me, if it should ever be in my power, to assist you.

Your Father's advice to you in his Letter of the 8th. of October 1778 is worthy the goodness of his own heart, and very excellent to follow; if I could say anything to enforce it, it should not be wanting.

I shall always be glad to see you here; your Aunt joins me in best wishes and I am, etc.

P. S. There was a great space between the 23d. of September 1778, when you were called upon by your Father for a specific list of your Debts, and his death: how happen'd it that in all that time you did not comply with his request? And what do they amount to now? His Letters to you are returned, and I hope will get safe to hand.<sup>60</sup>

### TO JOHN HARVIE

Mount Vernon, February 29, 1784.

Sir: I have received, and thank you for your obliging favor of the 21st. in answer to my letter of the 10th. I will write to the Surveyors of Augusta and Botetourt for information in those matters which the Land office is unable to give me: for

<sup>60</sup> From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

sure I am, I have warrants somewhere which ought, long 'ere this, to have been executed. The two Surveys of which you sent me copies, I should be glad to have patents for, reciting the right under which I hold them, as soon as it is convenient to yourself. I have the honor, etc.<sup>61</sup>

\*To THOMAS JEFFERSON

Mount Vernon, March 3, 1784.

Dear Sir: The last Post brought me the enclosed letter, under cover from the Marquis de la Fayette. If you have any News that you are at liberty to impart it would be charity to communicate a little of it, to a body.

It is unnecessary, I hope, to repeat to you the Assurances of the pleasure I should feel at seeing you at this retreat, or of the sincere esteem and regard with which I am, etc.

P S. Has not Congress received a Memorial from Mr. De Witt, now, or lately Geographer to the Northern Army? The propositions which are contained in the Copy, which he sent me, seem founded in equity. and with respect to himself, I can assure you he is a modest, sensible, sober, and deserving young Man. Esteemed a very good Mathematician, and well worthy encouragement.<sup>62</sup>

To SIMEON DE WITT

Mount Vernon, March 3, 1784.

Dr. Sir: By the interruptions of the post, your letter dated the 12th. of Jany. never got to my hands until Sunday last.

<sup>61</sup>From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>62</sup>From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress

On March 3 Washington forwarded, in a brief note to Robert Morris, Morris's warrant on Treasurer Michael Hillegas, indorsed as requested: "I thank you for the trouble you have taken to negotiate the matter with Govr. Clinton." This copy is in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

I have urged, not only in public, but private conversations with individual members of Congress, the policy, indeed necessity of having accurate Maps of the United States, and they know full well my opinion of your worth, and ability to execute them. All seem sensible of these, but the want of funds I suppose, stops this, as it does many other wheels which ought to move.

The propositions contained in your Memr. of the 12th. to Congress,<sup>83</sup> appear to me exceedingly reasonable and just: these sentiments I will express to a very valuable and much respected member of that Body to whom I am now writing. I am, etc.<sup>84</sup>

### TO JOHN WITHERSPOON

Mount Vernon, March 10, 1784.

Revd. Sir: The recourse which I have had to my papers since I returned home, reminds me of a question which you asked me in Philadelphia, respecting my Lands to the westward of the Allighaney mountains; to which I was unprepared, at that time to give a decided answer, either as to the quantity I had to let, or the terms upon which I would Lease them.

Upon examination, I find that I have Patents under the signature of Lord Dunmore, (while he administered the Governmt. of this State) for about 30,000 acres; and Surveys for about 10,000 more; Patents for which were suspended by the disputes with Gr. Britain, which soon follow'd the return of the warrts. to the Land office.

Ten thousand acres of the above thirty lie upon the Ohio; the rest on the Great Kanhawa; a river nearly as large, and quite as easy in its navigation as the former. The whole of it is

<sup>83</sup>Publication of maps of the Revolutionary War.

<sup>84</sup>From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.



rich bottom land, beautifully situated on these rivers and abounding plentifully in Fish, wild fowl, and Game of all kinds.

The uppermost tract upon the Ohio (which I incline to lease) contains 2314 acres, and begins about four miles below the mouth of the Little Kanhawa (there are two rivers bearing that name, the uppermost of which is about 180 miles below Fort Pitt by water) and has a front on the water of more than five miles. The next is 18 miles lower down, and contains 2448 acres; with a front on the river, and a large creek which empty's into it, of four miles and upwards. Three miles below this again (on the same river) and just above what is called the Big Bend in Evans's map, is a third tract of 4395 acres, with a river front of more than five miles.

Then going to the *Great Kanhawa* distant about twelve miles by land, but thirty odd to follow the meanders of the two rivers, and beginning within three miles of the mouth, I hold Lands on the right and left of the river, and bounded thereby, forty eight miles and an half; all of which (being on the margin of the river, and extending not more than from half a mile to a mile back) is, as has been observed before, rich low grounds.

From this description of my Lands, with the aid of Evans's or Hutchins's map of that Country, a good general knowledge of their situation may be obtained by those who incline to become adventurers in the settlement of them; but it may not be improper to observe further, that they were surveyed under the royal Proclamation of 1763 (granting to each commissioned and non-commissioned officer according to his rank, and to the private Soldier, certain quantities) and under a yet older proclamation from Mr. Dinwiddie, then Lieut. governor of the Colony; issued by the advice of his Council to encourage

and benefit the military adventurers of the year 1754, while the Land office was shut against all other applicants: It is not reasonable to suppose therefore, that those who had the first choice; had five years allowed them to make it; and a large District to survey in; were inattentive either to the quality of the Soil, or the advantages of situation.

But supposing no pre-eminence in quality, the title to these Lands is indisputable; and by laying on the South East side of the Ohio, they are not subject to the claims of the Indians; consequently will be free from their disturbances; and from the disputes, in which the settlers on the No. West side (when the Indians shall permit any), and even on the same side, lower down, will be involved in with one another; for it should seem, that there is already location upon location, and scarce any thing else talked of but land-jobbing and monopolies, before Congress have even settled the terms upon which the ceded Lands are to be obtained.

Having given this account of the Land, I am brought to another point which is more puzzling to me than description.

I have been long endeavouring to hit upon some mode, by which the Grantor and Grantees of these Lands, might be mutually considered, and equally satisfied; but find it no easy matter; as it is to be presumed that all adventurers, especially emigrants from foreign Countries, would not only *chuse*, but *expect* Leases for a long term. In this case, it is difficult in an infant Country, where lands rise progressively, and I might add rapidly in value, to fix upon a rent which will not in the first instance, startle the Tenant by its magnitude, or injure the Land-lord in the course of a few years by the inadequacy of it. What course then is to be taken?

To advance the rent periodically, in proportion to the *supposed* increasing value of the Land, is very speculative. And to leave it to the parties or their representatives, or to persons to be

chosen by them, at like stated periods to determine the increase of it, would not only be vague and uncertain, but more than probably open a door for many disputes, and prove very unsatisfactory to both sides. Yet, difficult as the case is, private and public considerations urging me thereto, I have come to a resolution which I am going to promulge in the Gazettes of this Country, by inserting an advertisement, of which the enclosed is a copy, leaving it optional in the Grantees to make choice of *either*.

Whether the terms there promulged, are sufficiently encouraging to the people of this Country, and inviting to strangers; or whether the latter might think so in the first instance, and change sentiments afterwards, upon seeing a wide, a wild and an extensive country before them, in which they may for ought I know, obtain good, tho' not so valuable and pleasant spots, upon easier terms; is not with me to decide, experiment alone can determine it. But it is for me to declare, that I cannot think of separating for ever from Lands which are beautifully situated upon navigable rivers; rich in quality, and abundantly blessed with many natural advantages, upon less beneficial terms to myself.

The Leases for short tenures, if these should be preferred to either of the other two, could be attended with no greater injury to me, because the improvements which (according to the conditions of them) are to be made thereon, will enable me, if I am not too sanguine in my expectation, to rent them thereafter upon more lucrative terms than I dare ask for either of the other two at present.

It has been my intention in every thing I have said, and will be so in every thing I shall say on this subject, to be perfectly candid; for my feelings would be as much hurt, if I shou'd deceive others by a too favourable description, as theirs would be who might suffer by the deception.

I will only add, that it would give me pleasure to see these Lands seated by particular Societies, or religious Sectaries with their Pastors. It would be a means of connecting friends in a small circle, and making life, in a new and rising Empire (to the Inhabitants of which, and their habits new comers would be strangers) pass much more agreeably, than in a mixed, or dispersed situation.

If a plan of this sort should be relished, it would be highly expedient for an agent, in behalf of such Societies, to come out immediately, to view the Lands and close a bargain; for nothing is more probable, than that each of the Tracts here enumerated may, if the matter is delayed, have settlers upon it; an intermixture with whom might not be agreeable.

The number of Families which these tracts agregately, or each one separately would accommodate, depends more upon the views of the occupiers, than on any other circumstance. The soil is capable of the greatest production (such as Europeans have little idea of); for *mere support* then, the smallest quantity would suffice; which I mention in this place, because a plan for the settlement of them (under the information here given of the quantity, quality and situation) can be as well digested in Europe, as on the Land itself, so far as it respects support only; and is to be prefered to a waste of time in ascertaining on the spot, the number it would receive, and what each man shall have, before the association is formed.

I will make no apology, my good Sir, for the length of this Letter, presuming from your enquiries, when I had the pleasure of seeing you last in Philadelphia, that you would not be displeased at the information I now give you, and might have a wish to communicate it to others. My best wishes attend you; with sentiments of great esteem etc.<sup>65</sup>

<sup>65</sup> From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

## ADVERTISEMENT

Mount Vernon, March [10,] 1784.

The subscriber would Lease about 30,000 acres of land on the Ohio and Great Kanhawa, for which he has had Patents ten or twelve years. Ten thousand of these, in three Tracts, lie upon the Ohio, between the mouths of the two Kanhawa's; having a front upon the river of 15 miles, and beautifully border'd by it. The remaining 20,000 acres, in four other Surveys, lie upon the Great Kanhawa, from the mouth, or near it, upwards. These four Tracts (together) have a margin upon *that* river, (by which they are bound) of more than forty miles.

After having said thus much of the Land, it is almost superfluous to add that the whole of it is river low-grounds of the first quality; but it is essential to remark that a great deal of it may be converted into the finest mowing ground imaginable, with little or no labour. Nature, and the water-stops which have been made by the Beaver, having done *more* to effect this, than years of hard labour in most other rich soils; and that the Land back of these bottoms, must forever render the latter uncommonly profitable for Stock, on account of the extensiveness of the range; as it is of a nature (being extremely broken) not to be seated or cultivated.

These Lands may be had on three tenures: First, until Jany. 1795, and no longer; Second, until Jany. 1795, renewable every ten years forever. Third, for 999 years.

The rents, Conditions and priviledges as follow.

First, An exemption for rent three years upon condition that five acres for every hundred, and proportionably for a greater or lesser quantity contained in the Lease, shall within that space be cleared and tilled, or in order for the latter; and a house, fit

for the comfortable accommodation of the Tenant, erected on the premises.

Second, That before the expiration of the term of the Leases of the first tenure; or the first ten years of those of the second and third; a dwelling house of Brick or Stone, or of framed work with a stone or brick chimney; and a good Barn, suited to the size of the Tenement shall be built thereon. An orchard of good fruit, to consist of as many trees as there are acres specified in the lease, planted and enclosed; And five acres for every hundred, and proportionably for a greater or lesser quantity, improved into meadows; which, or the like quantity, shall always be retained for mowing.

Third, The land to be accurately measured to each Grantee; who will be allowed to take in regular for (with an extension back proportioned to the front on the river) as much as his inclination, or ability may require; which quantity shall be secured to him and his Heirs, by Lease in the usual form, with proper clauses binding on Landlord and Tenant, for the performance of covenants.

Fourth. A Spanish milled Dollar of the present coin, shall pass in payment of the rent for six shillings; and other current Gold and Silver coin, in that proportion.

Fifth. The staple commodity, or other article of produce (for the greater ease and convenience of the Tenant) may be substituted in lieu of money rents in the Leases, if the Parties, at, or before the first rent shall become due, can agree upon a medium value for it.

Sixth. If the exigency or policy of the State in which these Lands lie, should at any time impose a tax upon them, or their appendages; such tax is to be borne by the Tenant.

Seventh. These conditions &c. being common to the Leases of the three different tenures, the rent. Of the First. Will be

four pounds per anu: for every hundred acres contained in the lease, and proportionably for a greater or lesser quantity.

Of the Second. One shilling for every acre contained in the Lease, until the year 1795. One shilling and six pence for the like quantity afterwards, 'till the year 1815. And the like increase per acre every ten years 'till the rent amounts to, and shall have remained at, five shillings for the ten years next ensuing; after which it is to increase three pence pr. acre every ten years for ever.

Of the Third. Two shillings for every acre therein contained; at which it will remain for 999 years, the term for which it is granted.

The situation of these Lands is not only pleasant, but in any point of view in which they can be considered, must be exceedingly advantageous, for if the produce of the Country, according to the ideas of some, shou'd go down the Mississippi, they are nearly as convenient for that transportation, having the Stream without any obstruction in it to descend, as those which are now settling about the Falls of the Ohio, and upon Kentucky, (to the choice of which, among other reasons, people were *driven* by the Grants to the Officers and Soldiers, of which these are part, in the upper Country, and from the impracticability of obtaining Lands in extensive bodies elsewhere). If it shou'd come by way of Fort Pitt, to Potomac, (which is the most natural<sup>66</sup>) or to the Susquehannah, by the Great Kanhawa to James river, or by the Lakes Erie and Ontario to New York, they are infinitely more so, being, according to Hutchins's table of distances, 422 miles, all of which is against the Stream, nearer to those markets than the Settlements last mentioned. And what, in the present situation of

<sup>66</sup> This word is omitted in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*, and is supplied from the printed advertisement.

things, is a matter of no trifling consideration, no other claims can interfere with those; patents having been long granted for the Land, and the property of it well known; and besides, by laying on the So. East side of the Ohio can give no jealousy to the Indians, the proprietors of it therefore, may cultivate their Farms in peace, and fish, fowl and hunt without fear or molestation.

Altho' I do not lay any stress upon it, the presumption being that the Indians during the late war, have laid all in ruins, yet it is of record in the Courts of Botetourt and Fincastle (in which Counties the land did lay) that buildings, Meadows and other improvements which were made thereon in the years 1774 and 1775, designed for the accommodation of Tenants, cost the subscriber, as appears by the oaths of sworn appraisers conformably to the directions of an Act of the Assembly, of Virginia for seating and cultivating Lands, £1568:18:7½ equal to £1961.3.3, Maryland, Pennsylvania or Jersey currency.

These Lands being peculiarly well adapted for small Societies who may incline to live detached and retired; any such applying in a body or by their pastors or Agents, shall have every assistance and encouragement, which can with convenience and propriety be given by, G: W——n.<sup>67</sup>

#### TO CLEMENT BIDDLE

Mount Vernon, March 10, 1784.

Dear Sir: Since last post I have received the Lace and two pole chain, accompanied by your favors of the 22d. and 29th. ulto. for which I thank you.

From what you have written concerning the Sieves, it is to be feared I did not sufficiently explain myself in speaking to the

<sup>67</sup> From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*. This advertisement appeared in the *Pennsylvania Packet* of Apr. 27, 1784, and other papers of various dates.



sizes of the meshes. You say, "the largest is of iron wire, as there was none of brass so coarse in Town" and again, "the second and third are of brass wire, and there is no wire finer than of thirty meshes to an inch." The coarseness, or finess of the wire was not what I had in contemplation, but the size of the meshes which were to be formed by *that wire*: you therefore have misunderstood me, or I misunderstood you, unless (which is more probable, and if the case is so, all things are yet right), the wire being imported in its woven state, was only to be had of the sizes mentioned in your letter; and which, with as much of the kind for boulting (32 to the inch) as will make one seive, will answer all my purposes very well. Be so good as to let me know what you call a *packet* of edging; which you say is at various prices, from one to three Dollars, and how many yards, that is, what length a packet will cover. Also the price of the plain blue, green, and yellow paper pr. piece, with the number of yards in a piece, when I get your answer to these queries, I will determine at once whether to buy, or not to buy.

Mrs. Washington joins in best wishes to Mrs. Biddle and Mrs. Shaw with, Dr. Sir, Your, etc.<sup>66</sup>

#### TO LAWRENCE MUSE

Mount Vernon, March 11, 1784.

Sir: Having luckily found some printed blank Deeds, I am enabled to dispatch your business sooner than I expected.

The return of these Deeds to me, executed before proper Evidences, will entitle you to receive the Sum I expressed a willingness to pay you, on Accot. of your Fathers expences to the Ohio.

Should Deeds (which I do not believe is the case) have been executed before for the 3323 acres specified in those now sent,

<sup>66</sup> From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

no bad consequences can follow the second signing of them, as both would express the same thing but it would induce, and warrant my paymt. of the above mentioned money, from which good may result.

I hope the Witnesses will be such as expect to attend the next Generl. Court, that there may be no hazard of the proof and the sooner I can get them returned to me the better, as the time is now short. Or, instead of bringing them back to me, a letter from my friend Colo. Edmd. Pendleton, assuring me that they are in his hands, properly executed, and that he will carry or send them to the Court for recording, will be preferable.

If no Deed should have passed for the 200 acres in the other tract adjoining (which I am entitled to by purchase from Mr. William Bronaugh) and which was to have been given in exchange, with other considerations for the 3323 herein mentioned, I will, without delay, cause them to be executed, and, in the mean time, pass my Bond for the title.

But from what you said respecting this matter, and from the tenor of your Fathers<sup>9</sup> Letter to me of the 6th. of Jany. 1775,<sup>10</sup> which I shewed you, there can be little doubt of its having happened already. I am, etc.

PS. Not knowing whether your father has a wife living or not, I have drawn the release on that supposition.<sup>11</sup>

#### \*To THOMAS JEFFERSON

Mount Vernon, March 15, 1784.

Dear Sir: The Baron de Steuben informs me, that he is about to make a final Settlement with Congress; and to obtain from them that compensation which his Services shall appear to have

<sup>9</sup>Col. George Muse.

<sup>10</sup>A copy of his letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>11</sup>From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

merited; having entered into no stipulation at the time he engaged in the Service, either for Pay or emoluments; chusing rather to let his Services point to their own rewards (after they were performed) than to set a value upon them before hand. Wishing, on the one hand, for nothing more than they deserved; on the other, convinced that the honor and dignity of the Sovereign power of these States would do him justice, if our cause should be crowned with success, if not, he would share their fortunes, and fall with them.

What the Barons expectations are, if he should incline to make them known, can be explained by himself; but this I have heard him say, that to be placed in the same situation he was when he came to this Country, would content him. What this was I know not, but it should seem that, if a Foreigner gets nothing by the Service, he ought not to loose by it.

My Sentiments with respect to the importance of the Barons Services have been delivered to Congress in so many instances, and he himself has received such repeated testimonies of it, that it is unnecessary for me, in this place (especially as I have laid aside my Military character, and am disinclined to trouble Congress any longer with my application) to give fresh proofs of my approbation of his abilities and conduct, tending to the same points. But I could wish to see his merit, which is great; and his Services which have been eminent, rewarded to his satisfaction. I am etc.<sup>72</sup>

### TO BARON STEUBEN

Mount Vernon, March 15, 1784.

My Dear Baron: I have perused with attention the plan which you have formed for establishing a Continental Legion, and for

<sup>72</sup>From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

training a certain part of the Arms bearing men of the Union as a Militia in times of peace; and with the small alterations which have been suggested and made, I very much approve of it.

It was no unpleasing, and flattering circumstance to me, to find such a coincidence of ideas as appear to run thro' your plan, and the one I had the honor to lay before a Committee of Congress in May last. Mine however, was a hasty production, the consequence of a sudden call, and little time for arrangement. Yours of maturer thought and better digestion, I, at the same time that I hinted the *propriety* of a Continental Militia; glided almost insensibly into what I thought *would*, rather than what I conceived *ought* to be a proper peace Establishment for this Country.

A peace establishment ought always to have two objects in view. The one present security of Posts, of Stores and the public tranquillity. The other, to be prepared, if the latter is impracticable, to resist with efficacy, the sudden attempts of a foreign or domestic enemy. If we have no occasion of Troops for the first purposes, and were certain of not wanting any for the second; then all expence of every nature and kind whatsoever on this score, would be equally nugatory and unjustifiable; but while men have a disposition to wrangle, and to disturb the peace of Society, either from ambitious, political or interested motives, common prudence and foresight requires such an establishment as is likely to ensure to us the blessings of Peace, altho' the undertaking should be attended with difficulty and expence; and I can think of no plan more likely to answer the purpose, than the one you have suggested; which (the principle being established) may be enlarged, or diminished at pleasure, according to circumstances; it therefore

meets my approbation and has my best wishes for its success.<sup>73</sup>  
I have the honor etc.<sup>74</sup>

### TO EDMUND RANDOLPH

Mount Vernon, March 18, 1784.

Dear Sir: I have seen the form of the answer which you have drawn in Savages suit, and approve it; presuming the references are founded on facts. Mr. Fairfax<sup>75</sup> was to have compared these and will prepare a fair copy. I will remind him of the matter, and have it sent to you as soon as I can.

The case of the depending petitions, in the General Court, is as follows:

The Land was obtained under a proclamation of Mr. Dinwiddie; issued by the advice of his Council Feby. 19th. 1754, for encouraging the raising of Troops for an Expedition to the Ohio. It was surveyed pursuant to Warrants granted by Lord Dunmore, and patented Decr. 15th. 1772. For 10,990 acres, in Fincastle; 4,395, 2,448, 2,314 in Botetourt.

In the month of March 1774, I encounter'd *in preparation only*, an expence of at least £300; by the purchase of Servants, Nails, Tools and other necessities for the purpose of seating and cultivating the above Lands, agreeably to our Act of Assembly; and for transporting the same over the Allighaney Mountains; but this was entirely sunk. The disturbances occasioned by the Indians, which immediately followed, put a stop to my proceedings; the Servants, some of them, engaged in the Militia; others squandered and the whole were lost *to me*; while my Goods, as I am informed, were seized for the use of

<sup>73</sup>Steuben's plan is not now found in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>74</sup>From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>75</sup>Bryan Fairfax.

the Militia and a fort which was built, upon the Expedition under Lord Dunmore, and no compensation made me for them; nor, if I am rightly informed, any thing given upon which I can found a claim.

The March following I went thro' the second edition of a similar expence, and find by having recourse to my papers, (since I came home) the Certificates which I enclose herewith.

Not knowing what had been, or might be done in this second essay to cultivate my Lands (for I left home in May, while my people were out), I wrote from Cambridge (in Sept., 1775) to Mr. Everard requesting as a further security, that they might be covered by friendly Petitions; and presume I must have required Colo. Bassett to take measures accordingly. But never knew what, or whether any steps had been taken in this business, 'till Mr. Mercer (whom I saw at Fredericksburg the other day) and your Letter of the 19th. of Feby. since, informed me of the depending Petitions.

Under this information and what follows, you will be so good as to do what shall appear necessary and proper in my behalf. The Lands, by the Proclamation and Patents, are exempt from the payment of quit rent, 'till the expiration of fifteen years from and after the date of the latter: but my ignorance of the existing Laws of this State, since the change of its Constitution, does not enable me to determine whether the old Act requiring cultivation and improvement, is yet in force, or not; consequently I can give no opinion upon the proper line of conduct to be pursued. Admitting however that this act is in force, so far as it may apply to Lands under the circumstances mine are; yet the two principal Tracts are nevertheless saved; as will appear by the records of Fincastle and Botetourt, where the aggregate of the valuation amount to £1583:15:7½, and the sum required to save the number of acres contained in them

amounts to no more than £1538:10.0. And had it not been for the hostile temper of the Indians towards the close of 1775, which rendered it unsafe for my people to remain out, and who were actually driven in, to my very great loss in other respects (besides the non-cultivation) I should most undoubtedly, have saved the whole agreeably to Law.

Miss Lee, sister to the late Major Genl. Lee, wrote, requesting me to obtain for her an authenticated copy of his will; the copy I have lately got, but Mr. Drew thinks it may be necessary to affix the Seal of the State to it, as it is to go to England, I request the favor of you therefore to procure and send this to me by the post, the cost when made known to me I will pay. With very great regard etc.<sup>76</sup>

#### TO JOHN HARVIE

Mount Vernon, March 18, 1784.

Sir: By a further research into my papers, I have found, with a letter from Colo. Fielding Lewis (which it shou'd seem must have come *to this place* after I had accepted the command of the Army and was gone to Cambridge), the Survey which I now enclose, as I also do the letter alluded to, as it will account for its delay in reaching the Land Office 'till now.

As I recollect well that Michael Cresap and indeed others were disposed to give me trouble about this bottom, I will thank you for examining if any Caveat to the issuing of a Patent has ever been entered in the Land office by him, Doctr. Brisco, or Charles Smith, all of whom at times, without a shadow of right, possessed themselves of the Land. If there is not, and the Constitution admits of no arrest to the progress of my claim elsewhere, I should be glad to receive a Grant therefor,

<sup>76</sup>From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

as soon as you can make it convenient, and should be glad also, if there is nothing improper in it, if the Patent was to recite the date of the Survey and the right upon which it is founded, that it may not have the appearance of a recent transaction, new rights, or purchase under the present modes. I wish this might be the case also with the Grant for the Survey made by Colo. Preston<sup>77</sup> and Mr. Saml. Lewis, copies of which you were so obliging as to send me last month. The first of these accounts for my warrants to Mr. Thruston, as the latter does for 2950 acres of the one to myself; and having since found the one to Capt. Roots (assigned to me) for 3,000 unexecuted; I have now only 5,050 acres unaccounted for, with these I am at a loss what to do, or where to locate them.

With respect to the Tract of 578 acres it may be necessary for me further to add, that neither myself, nor any person in my behalf has ever been notified of a Caveat, that I have never heard of one. In my letter of the 10th. of Feby. I intimated that Michael Cresap had impeded the Patent for it; and by a letter from Capt. Crawford<sup>78</sup> it appears that he attempted to do it with Lord Dunmore, when he was on the Indian Expedition, but the result he knew not. And that I have requested an examination for no other reason than to prevent (in case such a thing unknown to me should be) unnecessary trouble and expence. One thing I am certain of, and that is, that neither of the persons who have discovered a disposition to give me trouble and vexation in this Affair, saw or heard of the Land, 'till it was surveyed on my Accot. With great esteem and regard, I have the honor, etc.<sup>79</sup>

<sup>77</sup> Col. William Preston.

<sup>78</sup> Later Col. William Crawford.

<sup>79</sup> From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.



## TO MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Mount Vernon, March 20, 1784.

My dear Sir: Your Letter of the 21st. ulto. did not reach my hands 'till yesterday. Having the Governor here and a house full of company, and the Post being on the point of setting out for the Eastward I must confine the few lines I shall be able (at this time) to write, to the business of the Cincinnati.

From what you have said of the temper of your Assembly respecting this Society, from the current of Sentiment in the other New England States thereon, and from the official letter which I have lately received from the Marqs. de la Fayette on this subject, I am more than ever of opinion that the general meeting at Philada. in May next ought, *by all means*, to be full and respectable: I was sorry to find these words therefore in your letter, after naming the Delegates from your State, "probably, only two will attend."

I think, not only the whole number chosen should attend, but the abilities of them coolly, deliberately, and wisely employed when met, to obviate the prejudices and remove the jealousies which are already imbibed, and more than probably, through ignorance, envy and perhaps worse motives, will increase and spread. I cannot therefore forbear urging in strong terms, the necessity of the measure. The ensuing General Meeting, is either *useful* or *useless*; if the former, the representatives of each State Society, ought to be punctual in their attendance, especially under the present circumstances. If it is not, all ought to be exempted; and I am sure none can give the time which this journey and business requires, with less convenience to themselves than myself.

By a Letter which I have just received from Genl. Greene, I am informed that himself, Genl. Varnum and Majr. Lyman are chosen to represent the Society of the State of Rhode Island; that he intends to be in So. Carolina before the meeting, and it is not expected that more than one will attend it! I wish this could be otherwise, and that General Greene would attend; private interest, or convenience may be a plea for many, and the Meeting thereby be thin and unfit for the purpose of its institution.

I have heard nothing yet from New Hampshire, New York, or New Jersey to the Eastward, nor any thing from the Southward; to the last, duplicates have long since been sent.

As there can be no interruption of the post by bad weather, now, and there is time for it, pray let me hear more fully from you on the subject of this letter, by the return of it; particularly what the Committee's of your Assembly have reported. Mrs. Washington joins in best wishes for Mrs. Knox, yourself and the little folks, with Your, etc.<sup>80</sup>

#### TO NATHANAEL GREENE

Mount Vernon, March 20, 1784.

My Dr. Sir: From the purport of your Letter dated Feby. 16th. at New-port (which only came to my hands yesterday), I have little expectation that this reply to it will find you in the State of Rhode Island. If however the case be otherwise it is to express an earnest wish that you might make it convenient to take the Genl. Meeting of the Cincinnati in your way to So. Carolina.

I was concerned to hear you say, only one Delegate from your State would be there. It were to be wished on many

<sup>80</sup> From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

accounts, that the ensuing Meeting might not only be full in representation, but that the best abilities of the Society might also be present. There are, in my opinion very important reasons for this, and I cannot avoid expressing an earnest wish, that yours may be among them. I would add more were I not apprehensive that this will not meet you in time. I have received Letters from France on this subject, which, with the sentiments which may seem disposed to entertain of the tendency of the Society, makes it, I repeat it again, indispensably necessary that the first meeting shou'd be full and respectable.

As there is time (supposing this letter gets to your hand in Rhode Island) to give me an acknowledgment of it, let me entreat an answer. My best wishes attend Mrs. Greene, yourself and Family, in which Mrs. Washington joins. And I am very sincerely and affectionately Yours, etc.<sup>81</sup>

\*To TENCH TILGHMAN

Mount Vernon, March 24, 1784.

Dear Sir: I am informed that a Ship with Palatines is gone up to Baltimore, among whom are a number of Trademen. I am a good deal in want of a House Joiner and Bricklayer, (who really understand their profession) and you would do me a favor by purchasing one of each, for me. I would not confine you to Palatines. If they are good workmen, they may be of Asia, Africa, or Europe. They may be Mahometans, Jews or Christian of an Sect, or they may be Athiests. I would however prefer middle aged, to young men. and those who have good countenances and good characters on ship board, to others who have neither of these to recommend them, altho, after all, the proof of the pudding must be in the eating. I do not limit you

<sup>81</sup> From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

to a price, but will pay the purchase money on demand. This request will be in force 'till complied with, or countermanded, because you may not succeed at this moment, and have favourable ones here after to do it in. My best respects, in which Mrs. Washington joins, are presented to Mrs. Tilghman and Mrs. Carroll. and I am etc. [H. S. P.]

### TO CAPTAIN JOSHUA BARNEY

Mount Vernon, March 24, 1784.

Sir: Your Letter of the 6th.<sup>82</sup> only came to hand the 22d. I thank you for your care of the packages sent by the Marqs. de la Fayette, for which I will send a Carriage in the course of two or three days. In the meanwhile, if you would be so obliging as to have them deposited at the lodgings of Mr. Jefferson, a Delegate in Congress at Annapolis, from this State, it would oblige me. If you will be pleased to let me know what expences have attended these packages, the money shall be paid to your order.<sup>83</sup> I am, etc.<sup>84</sup>

### TO BENJAMIN WALKER

Mount Vernon, March 24, 1784.

Dear Walker: I perceive by the Governors<sup>85</sup> letter dated Feby. 27th.<sup>86</sup> (which only came to hand yesterday, and learn also by a Letter from Colo. Varick) that you are of his Family.

<sup>82</sup> Not now found in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>83</sup> On March 24 Washington wrote to Thomas Jefferson, then at Annapolis, that he would answer his letter of March 15 (in the *Washington Papers*) more fully later. He inclosed the letter to Barney and asked that Jefferson receive the packages from Lafayette. "They are valuable, and I pray you to give them house room." A copy of this letter is in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>84</sup> From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>85</sup> Gov. George Clinton.

<sup>86</sup> This letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

Let me entreat you therefore, without giving the Govr. any more trouble in the matter than is absolutely necessary, to clear up a mistake which must have happened some where.

The Govr. in acknowledging the receipt of my Letters of the 15th. and 28th. of Decr. adds, "the former covering Mr. Morris's Notes to the amount of 2080 80/90 Dollars". It ought to have covered (if any were enclosed) 4226 dollars and a fraction; arising first, from the balance of my warrant upon the Paymaster for 6000 Dollars, of which I recd. 2500 only, taking Mr. Morris's Note for the balance of the Accot. I had then deposited in the Auditors Office, amounting to £217:16:8. (Dols. at 6/.) which together made the 4226 10/90 Dollars. This business was transacted by Colo. Cobb, the Notes, as I intended them for the Govr., never came into my hands, or only to look at, and to him, in the hurry we were all in, the morning of our departure from Philada., was given my letter to the Govr., open, with a request that the letter and notes might be delivered to His Excellcy. as he passed thro' New York; the former informing him, that I should throw into his hands about £1700 towards the discharge of my bond. Whether the letter was left open to receive the Notes, or merely for him to seal, as I was hurried by the crowd of visitors which pressed upon us at that time, I do not now recollect, but certain it is, the Govr., by the means here mentioned, ought to have received Notes for 4226 Dolls. instead of 2080.

The other sum of 857 52/90 Dollars (which is mentioned in the Govrs. Letter) is a subsequent transaction altogether, arising from our Expenditures in Philada., on the road to Virginia &ca., a warrt. for which on Mr. Hilligas was drawn by Mr. Morris and sent to me for indorsation, which it has accordingly received, and is sent back to him again for the Govrs. use. Under this information you will confer a favor upon me by getting this mistake explained and rectified. If the Govr.

received no more than 2080 80/90 dollars, Colo. Cobb only can account for it; as the facts are literally as I have stated them.

I have obtained no answer yet to the Circular Letter you took with you for New Jersey, New York and New Hampshire, the two first certainly must have got to hand; but it may not be amiss nevertheless for you to enquire (by a line) of the Presidents of those two (State) Societies, whether they have or have not got them, accompanying the enquiry with information of the time and place of the Genl. Meeting.

I understand the Society of Cincinnati is the cause of much jealousy and uneasiness in the New England States. Pray what is said of it in yours, and in the Jersey. Will you (for a letter may arrive at this place before I set out) be kind enough to give me full information on this head, who your Delegates are, whether they will attend &c. It were much to be wished that the Genl. Meeting might be full and respectable; that the several matters which may come before it, might be deliberately weighed, and wisely resolved on. A thin meeting will bring the Society into contempt.

Inclosed you have a letter which came under cover to me. My best wishes attend the Govr., I feel great concern for his own, and the indisposition of his Family, and very much so for the accident my namesake met with. Mrs. Washington joins me in these and Compliments to you. I am, etc.<sup>87</sup>

TO DOCTOR JAMES CRAIK

Mount Vernon, March 25, 1784.

Dear Sir: In answer to Mr. Bowie's<sup>88</sup> request to you, permit me to assure that Gentleman, that I shall at all times be glad to see him at this retreat. That whenever he is here, I will give

<sup>87</sup> From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>88</sup> John Bowie.

him the perusal of any public papers antecedent to my appointment to the command of the American army, that he may be laying up materials for his work. And whenever Congress shall have opened *their* Archives to any Historian for information, that he shall have the examination of all others in my possession which are subsequent thereto; but that 'till this epoch, I do not think myself at liberty to unfold papers which contain all the occurrences and transactions of my *late* command; first, because I conceive it to be respectful to the sovereign power to let them take the lead in this business; and next, because I have, upon this principle, refused Doctr. Gordon and others who are about to write the History of the revolution, this privilege.

I will frankly declare to you, My Dr. Doctor that any memoirs of my life, distinct and unconnected with the general history of the war, would rather hurt my feelings than tickle my pride whilst I lived. I had rather glide gently down the stream of life, leaving it to posterity to think and say what they please of me, than by any act of mine to have vanity or ostentation imputed to me. And I will further more confess that I was rather surprised into a consent, when Doctr. Witherspoon (very unexpectedly) made the application, than considered the tendency of that consent. It did not occur to me at that moment, from the manner in which the question was propounded, that no history of my life, without a very great deal of trouble indeed, could be written with the least degree of accuracy, unless recourse was had to me, or to my papers for information; that it would not derive sufficient authenticity without a promulgation of this fact; and that such a promulgation would subject me to the imputation I have just mentioned, which would hurt me the more, as I do not think vanity is a trait of my character.

It is for this reason, and candour obliges me to be explicit, that I shall stipulate against the publication of the memoirs Mr.

Bowie has in contemplation to give the world, 'till I shou'd see more probability of avoiding the darts which *I think* would be pointed at me on such an occasion; and how far, under these circumstances, it wou'd be worth Mr. Bowie's while to spend time which might be more usefully employed in other matters, is with him to consider; as the practicability of doing it efficiently, without having free access to the documents of this War, which must fill the most important pages of the Memoir, and which for the reasons already assigned cannot be admitted at present, also is. If nothing happens more than I at present foresee, I shall be in Philadelphia on or before the first of May; where 'tis probable I may see Mr. Bowie and converse further with him on this subject; in the mean while I will thank you for communicating these Sentiments. I am, etc.<sup>89</sup>

### TO NATHANAEL GREENE

Mount Vernon, March 27, 1784.

My Dr. Sir: A few days ago, by the post, on wch. of late there seems to be no dependance, I wrote you a few lines expressive of an earnest wish that you could make it convenient to be at the Genl. Meeting of the Society of Cincinnati, before you took your departure for South Carolina. I did not then, nor can I now, assign all my reasons for it; but to me it should seem indispensable, that the Meeting in May next should not only be full, but composed of the best abilities of the representation. The temper, of the New England States in particular, respecting this Society, the encreasing jealousies of it, a letter from the Marquis, and other considerations point strongly to wise determination at this time. If then private interest or convenience with hold the first characters from the Meeting, what may

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<sup>89</sup> From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.



be the consequence? 'tis easier, and perhaps better to be conceived than told. At any rate a *bare* representation will bring the Society into disrepute, and unfit it perhaps to decide upon the weighty matters which may come before it. besides, these excuses may be offered by one man as well as another, and sure I am none can urge them with more propriety than myself. I would add more, but that I fear this letter will not reach you in time and I am detaining a countryman of yours who has a fair wind, and I know is setting upon thorns from his eagerness to embrace it. Most sincerely and Affectionately, I am, etc.<sup>90</sup>

\*To THOMAS JEFFERSON

Mount Vernon, March 29, 1784.

Dear Sir: It was not in my power to answer your favor of the 15th. by the last post, for the reason then assigned. I wish I may be able to do it to your satisfaction now, as I again am obliged to pay my attention to other Company, (the Govr.<sup>91</sup> being gone).

My opinion coincides perfectly with yours respecting the practicability of an easy, and short communication between the Waters of the Ohio and Potomac. Of the advantages of that communication, and the preference it has over *all* others. And of the policy there would be in this State, and Maryland to adopt and render it facile; but I confess to you freely, I have no expectation that the public will adopt the measure; for besides the jealousies wch. prevail, and the difficulty of proportioning such funds as may be allotted for the purposes you have mentioned, there are two others, which, in my opinion, will be yet harder to surmount; these are (if I have not imbibed too

<sup>90</sup> From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>91</sup> Gov. Benjamin Harrison.

unfavourable an opinion of my Countrymen) the impracticability of bringing the great, and truly wise policy of the measure to their view; and the difficulty of drawing money from them, for such a purpose if you could do it. for it appears to me, maugre all the sufferings of the public creditors, breach of public faith, and loss of public reputation, that payment of the taxes which are already laid, will be postponed as long as possible! how then are we to expect new ones, for purposes more remote?

I am not so disinterested in this matter as you are; but I am made very happy to find that a man of discernment and liberality (who has no particular interest in the plan) thinks as I do, who have Lands in that Country the value of which would be enhanced, by the adoption of such a Scheme.

More than ten years ago I was struck with the importance of it, and despairing of any aid from the public, I became a principal Mover of a Bill to empower a number of Subscribers to undertake, at their own expence, (upon conditions which were expressed) the extension of the Navigation from tide Water to Wills's Creek (about 150 Miles) and I devoutly wish that this may not be the only expedient by which it can be effected now. To get this business in motion, I was obliged, even upon *that ground*, to comprehend James River, in order to remove the jealousies which arose from the attempt to extend the Navigation of the Potomack. The plan however, was in a tolerably train when I set out for Cambridge in 1775, and would have been in an excellent way had it not been for the difficulties which were met with in the Maryland Assembly; from the opposition which was given (according to report) by the Baltimore Merchants; who were alarmed, and perhaps not without cause, at the consequence of Water transportation to George Town of the produce which usually came to their Market.

The local interest of that place (Baltimore) joined with the short sighted politics, or contracted views of another part of that Assembly, gave Mr. Thomas Johnson who was a warm promoter of the Scheme on the No. side of the River, a great deal of trouble.<sup>92</sup> In this situation things were when I took command of the Army; the War afterwards called Mens attention to different objects, and all the Money they could or would raise, were applied to other purposes; but with you, I am satisfied that not a moment ought to be lost in recommencing this business; for I *know* the Yorkers will delay no time to remove every obstacle in the way of the other communication, so soon as the Posts at Oswego and Niagara are surrendered; and I shall be mistaken if they do not build Vessels for the Navigation of the Lakes, which will supercede the necessity of coasting on either side.

It appears to me that the Interest and policy of Maryland is proportionably concerned with that of Virginia to remove obstructions, and to invite the trade of the Western territory into the channel you have mentioned. You will have frequent opportunities of learning the Sentiments of the principal characters of that State, respecting this matter, and if you should see Mr. Johnson (formerly Govr. of the State) great information may be derived from him. How far, upon more mature consideration I may depart from the resolution I had formed of living perfectly at my ease, exempt from all kinds of responsibility,

<sup>92</sup> Virginia, by her Constitution of 1776, had recognized Maryland's charter-right to the waters of the Potomac. Time showed this to have been a mistake, and James Madison carried a resolution through the Virginia legislature in 1784 to settle the matter through a joint commission which would frame regulations for the commerce of the Potomac. This commission met at Alexandria in March, 1785. This commission consisted of George Mason, Edmund Randolph, James Madison, and Alexander Henderson, of Virginia, and Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer, Thomas Johnson, Thomas Stone, and Samuel Chase, of Maryland. It adjourned to Mount Vernon and struggled with the matter from March 25 to 28. One outcome of this endeavor was the Annapolis Convention of 1786.

is more than I can, at present, absolutely determine. The Sums granted, the manner of granting them, the powers and objects, would merit consideration. The trouble, if my situation at the time would permit me to engage in a work of this sort would be set at naught; and the immense advantages which this Country would derive from the measure, would be no small stimulus to the undertaking; if that undertaking could be made to comport with those ideas, and that line of conduct with which I meant to glide gently down the stream of life; and it did not interfere with any other plan I might have in contemplation.

I am not less in sentiment with you respecting the impolicy of this State's grasping at more territory than they are competent to the Government of. And for the reasons you assign, I very much approve of a Meridian from the Mouth of the Great Kanhawa as a convenient and very proper line of separation. But I am mistaken if our chief Magistrate will coincide with us in this opinion.

I will not enter upon the subject of Commerce, it has its advantages and disadvantages, but which of them preponderates is not the question. From Trade our Citizens *will not* be restrained, and therefore it behoves us to place it in the most convenient channels, under proper regulation. freed *as much as possible*, from those vices which luxury, the consequence of wealth and power, naturally introduce.

The incertitude which prevails in Congress, and the non-attendance of its Members, is discouraging to those who are willing, and ready to discharge the trust which is reposed in them; whilst it is disgraceful, in a high degree to our Country. but I believe the case will never be otherwise, so long as that body persist in their present mode of doing business; and will hold constant, instead of annual Sessions; against the former

of which, my mind furnishes me with a variety of Arguments, but not one, in times of peace, in favor of the latter.

Annual Sessions would always produce a full representation, and alertness at business. The Delegates, after a recess of 8 or 10 Months would meet each other with glad Countenances; they would be complaisant; they would yield to each other as much as the duty they owed their constituents would permit; and they would have opportunities of becoming better acquainted with the Sentiments of them and removing their prejudices, during the recess. Men who are always together get tired of each others Company; they throw off the proper restraint; they say and do things which are personally disgusting; this begets opposition; opposition begets faction; and so it goes on till business is impeded, often at a stand. I am sure (having the business prepared by proper Boards or a Committee) an Annual Session of two Months would dispatch more business than is now done in twelve; and this by a full representation of the Union.

Long as this letter is, I intended to be more full on some of the points, and to have touched upon some others; but it is not in my power, as I am obliged to snatch the moments which give you this hasty production from Co. With very great esteem &c.

Query, have you not made the distance from Cuyahoga to New York too great?<sup>93</sup>

TO DOCTOR HUGH WILLIAMSON

Mount Vernon, March 31, 1784.

Dear Sir: The last Post brought me your favor of the 24th. The sentiments I shall deliver in answer to it, must be considered

<sup>93</sup>From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress. The copy in Washington's "Letter Book" varies considerably from this in verbal details, though the sense is the same.

as coming from an individual only; for I am as unacquainted with the opinions, and know as little of the affairs and present management of the Swamp Company, in Virginia, (tho' a Member of it) as you do, perhaps less, as I have received nothing from thence, nor have heard any thing of my interest therein, for more than nine years.

I am equally uninformed of the motives which induced the Assembly of Virginia to open a Canal between Kemps, and the No. West Landings; but presume territorial jurisdiction must have been the governing principle.

From an attentive review of the great dismal Swamp (and it was with a critical eye I examined it) I have been long satisfied of the practicability of opening a communication between the rivers which empty into Albemarle Sound (thro' Drummonds pond<sup>94</sup>) and the waters of Elizabeth or Nansemond Rivers. Once, for the purpose of forming a plan for reclaiming the Lands, more than with a view to the benefit of navigation, I traversed Drummonds pond through its whole circuit; and at a time when it was brim full of water. I lay one night on the east border of it, on ground something above the common level of the Swamp; in the morning I had the curiosity to ramble as far into the Swamp as I could get with convenience, to the distance perhaps of five hundred yards; and found that the water which at the margin of the Lake (after it had exceeded its natural bounds) was stagnant, began perceivably to move Eastward; and at the extent of my walk it had deepen'd, got more into a channel, and increased obviously in its motion. This discovery left not a doubt in my mind, that that current was descending into one of the rivers of Albemarle Sound. To ascertain it, I directed our Manager to hire persons to explore it Fully; To the best of my recollection he some time afterwards

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<sup>94</sup> Now called Lake Drummond.

informed me, that he had done so, that it was found to be the head of the Northwest river, that to where the water had formed a regular channel of considerable width and depth, did not exceed 4 miles, and that from thence downwards to the present navigation of the river, there was no other obstruction to small craft, than fallen trees. What I have given as coming under my own knowledge, you may rely upon. The other, I as firmly believe, and have no doubt but that the waters of Pequemins and Pasquetank, have a similar, and perhaps as close a connexion with Drummonds pond as those of the No. West.

My researches, at different times, into, and round this Swamp (for I have encompassed the whole) have enabled me to make the following observations. That the principal rivulets which run into the great dismal, if not all of them, are to the westward of it, from Suffolk southwardly. That Drummonds Pond is the receptacle for all the water which can force its way thro' the reeds, roots, trash and fallen timber (with which the Swamp abounds) into it. That to these obstructions, and the almost perfect level of the Swamp, are to be ascribed the wetness of it. That in wet seasons, when the banks of the pond are overborne by the assemblage of waters from the quarter I have mentioned, it discharges itself with equal difficulty, into the heads of the rivers Albemarle, Elizabeth and Nansemond; for it is a fact, that the late Colo. Tucker of Norfolk, on a branch of Elizabeth river, and several others on Nansemond river, have Mills which are, or have been worked by the waters which run *out* of the Swamp.

Hence, and from a Canal which the Virginia Company opened some years since, I am convinced that there is not a difference of more than two feet between one part of the Swamp and another. That the East side, and south end are

lower than their opposites; and that a canal of that depth when the water of Drummonds pond is even with its banks, and more or less in the proportion it rises or sinks, will take the water of it, and, with the aid of one Lock, let it into either Elizabeth river, or Nansemond; neither of which, from the best information I have been able to obtain, would exceed six or seven miles. Admitting these things, and I firmly believe in them, the kind of navigation will determine the expence, having due consideration to the difficulty which must be occasioned by the quantity of water, and little fall by which it can be run off.

To attempt in the first instance such a Canal as would admit *any* vessel which the Bay of Albemarle is competent to, would in my opinion be tedious, and attended with an expence which might prove discouraging; whilst one upon a more contracted scale would answer very valuable purposes, and might be enlarged as the practicability of the measure, and the advantages resulting from it should unfold. appropriating the money which shall arise from the Toll, after principal and interest are fully paid, as a fund for the further extension of the navigation, which in my opinion wou'd be exceedingly practicable, and would be found the readiest and easiest plan to bring it to perfection.

If this method should be adopted, I would very readily join my mite towards the accomplishment, provided the Canal which the State of Virginia is about to cut, should not render it an unnecessary, or unprofitable undertaking. A more extended plan would be too heavy for my purse.

I agree in sentiment with you that whenever the public is disposed to reimburse principal and interest to the corporation and will open a free passage of the Canal the charter should cease; but I do not think eight pr. Cent is adequate, I mean sufficiently inviting, nor Ten either, unless Governmt., in the



act for incorporation, were to guaranty the expence, and be at the final risque of the success. And would have, tho' not an exorbitant, yet a fixed toll, and one which should be judged fully competent to answer the purpose; because it is not less easy than pleasing to reduce it at any time, but it would be found difficult and disgusting, however necessary and urgent, to increase it.

In other respects my opinion differs not from yours, or the propositions you inclosed to, Sir, Your etc.<sup>96</sup>

#### TO ELBRIDGE GERRY

Mount Vernon, March 31, 1784.

Sir: Your favor of the 18th.,<sup>96</sup> came to my hands last week, but not in time to answer it by the Post.

I have examined my letter and orderly books, but find no such order as Mr. Gridley<sup>97</sup> alludes to, in his letter of the 21st. of Feby. to you.<sup>98</sup>

If his Father, or himself, ever received such orders, they are no doubt to be produced, and will speak for themselves. Mr. Gridley never reported himself to the Chief Engineer (Genl. Duportail) nor has he ever been returned to me by him, or any senior officer in that Department, that I remember, as one of that Corps, in the service of the United States. It is not in my power therefore, from any recollection I have of the circumstance he alludes to, or of his services, to certify any thing on which his claim can be founded.

It would give me pleasure at any time when your leisure and inclination would permit, to see you and your brother Delegates at this retreat. I am, etc.<sup>99</sup>

<sup>96</sup> From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>97</sup> This letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>98</sup> Formerly Col. Richard Gridley.

<sup>99</sup> Not now found in the *Washington Papers*.

## TO JAMES MILLIGAN

Mount Vernon, April 1, 1784.

Sir: Your favor of the 9th. of March came to hand last week. I am perfectly satisfied (from the circumstances you have related) that the charge of £133:16:0, is just. The manner in which you have accounted for it, makes the matter appear quite clear. It was the only channel thro' which I could have received the money unremembered, and it was from that consideration, I suggested the enquiry.

I am obliged by the readiness with wch. you adopt the alterations pointed out in my last, and altho' I am unwilling to add to the troubles of your office, I must pray you to examine the warrant on which the charge of 580 80/90 Dollars is placed to my debit. I drew no Warrt. while I was in Philada. for my own use, except for the balance of the Accot. rendered Decr. 13th., to wit £217:16.8, which amounting to 726 10/90 Dollars was credited in the subsequent Account of the 28th. of the same month. It's true I drew a Warrant, (and I believe, for I cannot readily come at my Warrt. Book, for the identical sum of 580 80/90 Dolrs.), but this, if I recollect right was to give two or three months to each of my aids, and to a small party of Dragoons who were then with me. It was done with the consent, and (the mode) by the direction of the Financier; No charge of it was made by me, as will appear by a reference to my Accots.; for I presumed the paymaster General, would debit the persons for whose benefit the warrant was drawn with the respective sums annexed to their names. If however it is necessary that it should appear as an article of charge against me, in your Office, My Accot. ought to have credit by these people, and they debited to the amount; as I only follow'd Mr. Morris's direction

in the business, without deriving any other benefit from the draft than the satisfaction of Servg. those whom I knew stood much in need of money.

You will be so good as to excuse the trouble this alteration will make in your Accots.; probably it is the last trouble I shall ever have occasion to give. You will receive at the same time, my thanks for your attention to my business, and the assurances of my being Sir, Your etc.<sup>99</sup>

### TO MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE

Mount Vernon, April 4, 1784.

My Dr. Marqs. I have no expectation, that this Letter will find you in France. Your favor of Novr. to me, and of Decr. to Congress, both announce your intention of making us a visit this Spring. On this hope I shall fully rely, and shall ardently long for the moment in which I can embrace you in America. Nothing could add more to the pleasure of this interview than the happiness of seeing Madame la Fayette with you, that I might have the honor of thanking her in person for the flattering letter she has been pleased to write to me; and to assure her of the sincerity of my wishes, and those of Mrs. Washington, that she cou'd make Mount Vernon her home, while she stays in America.

Lest I should be disappointed of this gratification, I accompany this letter with another to the Marchioness; and if I could express to her half what I feel upon the occasion it would, if *twenty years* could be taken from the number of my days, make you diligent at your *post*. Adieu, it is unnecessary to tell you how much I am Yours, etc.

<sup>99</sup>From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

PS. I have received the plate, you were so obliging as to send me by Captain Barney; and thank you for your great attention to my request though I endeavoured to countermand it. I shall be at Philada. the first of May, when and where, I will buy a Bill, and remit you for the cost of it.<sup>1</sup>

### TO MARCHIONESS DE LAFAYETTE

Mount Vernon, April 4, 1784.

Madam: It is now, more than ever, I want words to express the sensibility and gratitude with which the honor of your felicitations of the 26th. of Decr. has inspired me. If my expression was equal to the feelings of my heart the homage I am about to render you, would appear in a more favourable point of view, than my most sanguine expectations will encourage me to hope for. I am more inclined therefore to rely upon the continuance of your indulgent sentiments of me, and that innate goodness for which you are remarked, than upon any merit I possess, or any assurances I could give of my sense of the obligation I am under for the honor you have conferred upon me by your correspondence.

Great as your claim is, as a French or American woman; or as the wife of my amiable friend, to my affectionate regards; you have others to which the palm must be yielded. The charms of your person, and the beauties of your mind, have a more powerful operation. These Madam, have endeared you to me, and every thing which partakes of your nature will have a claim to my affections. George and Virginia (the offspring

<sup>1</sup>From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

On April 4 Washington wrote a brief letter to the President of Congress, introducing Comte de Laval Montmorency, brother to the Duc de Laval. The original of this is in the possession of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union.

of your love), whose names do honor to my Country, and to myself, have a double claim and will be the objects of my vows.

From the clangor of arms and the bustle of a camp, freed from the cares of public employment, and the responsibility of office, I am now enjoying domestic ease under the shadow of my own Vine, and my own Fig tree; and in a small Villa, with the implements of Husbandry, and Lambkins around me, I expect to glide gently down the stream of life, 'till I am entombed in the dreary mansions of my Fathers.

Mrs. Washington is highly honored by your participations, and feels very sensibly the force of your polite invitation to Paris; but she is too far advanced in life, and is too much immersed in the care of her little progeny,<sup>2</sup> to cross the Atlantic. This My Dr. Marchioness (indulge me with this freedom) is not the case with you. You have youth (and if you should not incline to bring your children, can leave them with all the advantages to Education), and *must* have a curiosity to see the Country, young, rude and uncultivated as it is; for the liberties of which your husband has fought, bled, and acquired much glory. Where every body admires, every body loves him. Come then, let me entreat it, and call my Cottage your home; for your own doors do not open to you with more readiness, than mine wou'd. You will see the plain manner in which we live; and meet the rustic civility, and you shall taste the simplicity of rural life. It will diversify the Scene and may give you a higher relish for the gaieties of the Court, when you return to Versailles. In these wishes, and in most respectful compliments Mrs. Washington joins me. With sentiments of strong attachment, and very great regard, I have the honor etc.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Her grandchildren.

<sup>3</sup> From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

## \*TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL, JUNIOR

Mount Vernon, April 4, 1784.

My dear Sir: The choice of your delegates to the General Meeting of the Cincinnati gave me pleasure, and I wish very sincerely you would *all* attend; Let me impress this upon you, with a request that you would impress it upon your Brothers of the delegation.

(This meeting, taking into consideration the prejudices and jealousies which have arisen, should not only be respectable in number, but respectable in abilities. Our measures should be deliberate and wise. If we cannot convince the people that their fears are ill-founded we should (at least in a degree) yield to them and not suffer that which was intended for the best of purposes to produce a bad one which will be the consequence of divisions proceeding from an opposition to the curr. opinion, if the fact is so in the Eastern States as *some* have reported. Independent of this there are other matters which call for attention at the ensuing meeting.<sup>4</sup>)

You will oblige me by having the enclosed advertisement<sup>5</sup> inserted twice, (and as soon as convenient) in a Gazette of your State. The one which is most diffused among that class of people whose views it is most likely to meet will answer my purposes best. Know the cost and I will pay it when we meet. Present my best regards to your good Father, whether in, or out of Office. Mrs. Washington joins in best wishes for you and Mrs. Trumbull with Dr. Sir Yr. etc. [N. Y. P. L.]

<sup>4</sup>Among these other matters was the admission of several French naval officers: La Pérouse, La Touche, D'Albert de Rion, and Tilly, whose names had been sent in by Lafayette. Washington's short note, undated, to Knox concerning this is in the New York Public Library, where it has been assigned the date of Apr. 4, 1784, and Trumbull is given as the addressee. Lafayette's letter to Washington, mentioning these officers, is dated Mar. 9, 1784, and is in the *Papers of the Society of the Cincinnati*.

<sup>5</sup>The land sale advertisement of the Ohio lands. (See Advertisement, Mar. 10, 1784, *ante*.)

## TO LOUIS LE BÈQUE DU PORTAIL

Mount Vernon, April 4, 1784.

Dear Sir: At present I can do no more than snatch a moment to acknowledge (by Monsr. La Compte de Laval, who is going immediately to Paris and gave me the honor of a call as he travelled from Charles town to New York) the receipt of your kind remembrance of me, and to assure you that it will always give me great pleasure to hear from, or to see you in America.

Matters in this Country, since you left it, remain *nearly* in statu quo. It is said however, a more liberal sentiment is taking place in those States which were most opposed to commutation, and the other interests of the army, and that the impost, which has laboured so long in them, will certainly pass this Spring; this will be a principal move towards restoring public credit, and raising our sinking reputation. More competent powers it is thought will also be vested, in a little time, in Congress, and that all things will come right after the people *feel* the inconveniences wch. they might have avoided if they had not been too fond of judging for themselves.

I have only news paper Accts. of the Air Balloons, to which I do not know what credence to give; as the tales related of them are marvellous, and lead us to expect that our friends at Paris, in a little time, will come flying thro' the air, instead of ploughing the Ocean to get to America.

Present me Affectionately to Gouverneur\* (from whom I recd. a letter just at his departure from Philada.), tell him he shall always have a first place in my esteem, and that whatever contributes to his happiness or interest will give me pleasure. With great esteem and regard, I am, etc.<sup>†</sup>

\*Jean Baptiste Gouvion (Gouverneur). His letter of Nov. 4, 1783, is in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>†</sup>From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

## TO WILLIAM HAMILTON

Mount Vernon, April 6, 1784.

Sir: I have been favored with your Letter of the 20th. of Feby., and pray you to accept my thanks for the information contained in it.

I expect to be in Philada. the first of May; but if in the meanwhile, you should be perfectly satisfied of the skill of Mr. Turner, and the efficiency of his work, you would add to the favor already conferred on me, by desiring him not to be engaged further than to yourself, until I see him. I have a large room, which I intend to finish in Stucco and plaister of Paris; besides this, I have a piazza in front of my house (open and exposed to the weather) of 100 feet by 12 or 14, which I want to give a floor to, of Stone or some kind of cement which will be proof against wet and frost; and I am, as you were, plagued with leaks at a Cupola &c., which requires a skilful artist to stop, all these things would afford Mr. Turner a good job, whilst the good execution of them would be rendering me an acceptable service. I have the honor, etc.<sup>a</sup>

## \*TO THOMAS JEFFERSON

Mount Vernon, April 8, 1784.

Dear Sir: If with frankness, and the fullest latitude of a friend, you will give me your opinion of the Institution of the Society of Cincinnati, it would confer an acceptable favor upon me. If to this opinion, you would be so obliging as to add the Sentiments, or what you suppose to be the sentiments of Congress respecting it, I would thank you.

<sup>a</sup>From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.



That you may have the best materials on which to form a judgment, I send you a copy of the proceedings of the Society. Consequent of their choice of me for Presidt. Pro: Tem. and the direction therein, I sent the Institution to the French land and Naval Commanders, and to the Marqs. de la Fayette, as the Senr. French Officer in the American Army, whose proceedings thereon I also enclose to you.

These Papers you will please to retain (for fear of accidents) 'till I shall have the pleasure (the Week after next) of seeing you in Annapolis, on my way to Philadelphia; whither this, and other business, will take me; but the sooner I could receive your sentiments on this Subject, the more pleasing they would be to me.

The Pamphlet<sup>9</sup> ascribed to Mr. Burke,<sup>10</sup> as I am told had its effect. People are alarmed, especially in the Eastern States. How justly, or how contrary to the avowed principles of the Society and the purity of their motives, I will not declare, least it should appear that I wanted to biass your judgment rather than to obtain an opinion, which, if you please, might be accompanied with sentiments (under the information here given) respecting the most eligible measures to be pursued by the Society at their next meeting.

You may be assured Sir, that to the good opinion, alone, which I entertain of your abilities and candor, this liberty is to be attributed; and I can truly add, that with very great esteem and regard I am &c.<sup>11</sup>

PS. I was on the point of closing this Letter when Mr. Hogendorff put your favor of the 6th. into my hands.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>9</sup>The pamphlet, entitled "Considerations on the Society, or Order, of Cincinnati," was published anonymously in Philadelphia in 1783.

<sup>10</sup>Judge Aedanus Burke, of South Carolina.

<sup>11</sup>Jefferson's reply to this letter, dated Apr. 16, 1784, is in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, a photostat of which is in the *Washington Papers*. The draft is in the *Jefferson Papers*.

<sup>12</sup>From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

## TO SAMUEL VAUGHAN

Mount Vernon, April 8, 1784.

Sir: Your favor of the 5th. of Feby. was long on its way to me. I scarcely knew in what terms to express my sense of your politeness, and the obligation you have laid me under by your order for the marble chimney piece and pair of glass Jarendoles;<sup>13</sup> but be assured Sir, this instance of your attention has made an impression, which never will be forgotten. You have much obliged me also by giving your sentiments respecting my room.<sup>14</sup>

Altho' you have suspended your visit to Virginia, I would fain flatter myself that you have not laid it altogether aside. I expect to be in Philada. about the first of May, when I shall have an opportunity of thanking you in person for your great politeness to me, and to assure you of the esteem etc.<sup>15</sup>

\*TO THOMAS WALKER<sup>16</sup>

Mount Vernon, April 10, 1784.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 24th. of Jan: only got to my hands by the Post on thursday last; if this letter is as long on its passage to you, the May Session will have ended before it reaches you.

The favorable sentiments you have been pleased to express for me, deserve my particular acknowledgments; and I thank you for your kind invitation to Castle hill; which I certainly shall avail myself of, if ever I should come into that part of the Country. In return, I hope it is unnecessary to give you

<sup>13</sup> Girandoles.

<sup>14</sup> Now known as the Banquet Hall at Mount Vernon.

<sup>15</sup> From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>16</sup> Of Albemarle County, Va. He was formerly a colonel of militia.

assurances of the pleasure I should feel in seeing you, and my cousin at this retreat from all my public employments.

I much approve the proposal for a meeting of the Swamp Company, but I pray *you* to issue the summons, and to name the time and place for holding it. Richmond appears to me to be the most convenient place, but any other, or any time, shall have my attendance when it shall be in my power. The first of May I am called to Philadelphia on business of different kinds; how long I shall be absent is uncertain, for it is probable I may make a more extensive tour, which would take much time to perform. I beg therefore that the meeting may not be delayed on my acct. Whatever resolutions the Company may come to, shall meet my concurrence. Enclosed I send you the Copy of a letter from Doctr. Williamson of North Carolina, who is a delegate in Congress, and member of a Company who holds that part of the Dismal swamp which lyes South of the Virginia line. I send it, that the proposition may appear before the next meeting of our Company, and be considered by it.

With respect to the private purchases made conjointly by yourself, our deceased friend, and me, I can only say that I gave my consent to the Sale because Colo. Lewis desired his part to be sold; and indeed, because my own circumstances made it necessary for me to raise money by some such means; but I accompanied that consent with an opinion, that a Sale at this time would be premature; inasmuch as that the value of these Lands were not sufficiently known, nor had the spirit of emigration taken place in that extensive degree which was, and is, expected. In February last at Fredericksburgh, I had an opportunity of seeing and conversing with Mr. John Lewis on this subject; when it was our joint opinion, that it would be imprudent to precipitate the Sale, before a just value could be obtained; but that it might be proper to advertise the Land under

just descriptions, in the several Gazettes, to see if offers equal to our expectations, would be made for them. If you approve of this measure for the Tracts in which you are concerned, it may be carried into effect along with that of Norfleets, which his father and I had between us in equal moieties. Mrs. Washington unites in best wishes for you and Mrs. Walker with Dr. Sir Yrs. etc.

PS. As it is now nine years since I have heard a tittle from the Company, or how the affairs of it have been managed, if you would devote an hour for the purpose of giving this information I should receive it very kindly. I should be glad also to receive a copy of Mr. Andrews's Survey of the Company's Lands, or, if that would be troublesome, I should be very glad to know what quantity there is of it.

Since writing the above, I find (as I mean to send this letter to Post to Fredericksburgh), that I have not time to Copy Doctr. Williamson's letter to me, and therefore I give you the original.<sup>17</sup>

#### TO MISS SIDNEY LEE

Mount Vernon, April 15, 1784.

Madam: I fear you will think me inattentive to your commands; appearances are against me, but I have not been unmindful of your request, or my promise. During my continuence with the Army, I wrote several Letters to Mr. Drew, Clerk of the Court in which the Will of Majr. Genl. Lee was recorded; all of which I persume, miscarried; as the first Letter he acknowledges to have received from me, was written in Decr. last, after I had retired to this Seat. His letter will account for the delay which took place afterwards, and the sending to

<sup>17</sup>From a photostat of the original owned by Dr. William C. Rives, of Washington, D. C.

Richmond (which is at a considerable distance from hence) to obtain the Governor's certificate, has filled up the great measure of time which has elapsed since my promise to procure you an attested copy of the Will, and will I hope, plead for my seeming neglect. Berkeley is a remote County, much out of the post road; which may accot. for the miscarriage of my letters to Mr. Drew. Your application to me, Madam, required no apology; I only regret that it has not been in my power to comply with your request sooner: if there is any thing further in which I can be serviceable, I pray you to command me. I have the honor, etc.<sup>18</sup>

#### TO THE GOVERNOR OF BARBADOS

Mount Vernon, April 25, 1784.

Sir: Altho' I have not the honor of a personal acquaintance with your Excellency I take the liberty of introducing the bearer Major George Auge. Washington, a Nephew of mine, to you. Bad health, and the advice of his physicians induce him to try the Sea Air, and a Vessel presenting from the port of Alexandria for Barbadoes he has taken a passage in her to that Island, from whence he may soon depart for some other, as it may not be proper for him to remain long in a place. I have the honor, etc.<sup>19</sup>

#### \* TO THE SOCIETY OF THE CINCINNATI

[Philadelphia, May 4, 1784.]

Strike out every word, sentence, and clause which has a political tendency.

<sup>18</sup>From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>19</sup>From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*. It notes that "The above was written to the Governors of the several West India Islands."

Discontinue the hereditary part in all its connexions, *absolutely*, without any substitution which can be construed into concealment, or a change of ground *only*; for this would, in my opinion, encrease, rather than allay suspicions.

Admit no more honorary Members into the Society.

Reject subscriptions, or donations from every person who is not a Citizen of the United States.

Place the funds upon such a footing as to remove the jealousies which are entertained on that score.

#### Respecting the Funds.

It would be magnanimous, to place them in the first instance, in the hands of the Legislatures for the *express purposes* for which they were intended. This would shew a generous confidence in our Country, which might be productive of favorable sentiments and returns.

If it should be thought that this wd. be going too far, reserve them 'till our numbers are reduced to a certain ratio of what they now are, or, for a certain number of years; then to be disposed of as above.

The disposal of them by Will, or Deed, is too unimportant an object, in my opinion, for any member to be tenacious of. The Sums Subscribed were, in that moment, consigned to charitable purposes. No one ever expected to receive a farthing of it back, unless haplessly he should become an object of its charity, and in this case whether he received the benefits mediately or immediately from the Society the effect to him, and obligation to them are precisely the same.

Authorize the foreign officers to hold meetings in France (if it shall be permitted by their Government). Empower them at these meetings to hear, and decide upon the pretensions of those, of their own body, who, under the letter, or spirit of the

Institution, claim the privilege of becoming members of the Cincinnati. As also the pretensions of foreigners not of any particular State line whose claims are founded on being Officers in the American Army. Americans, in foreign Countries who belonged to the line of any State, are to make application to the Society of that State, who shall hear, and decide thereupon.

#### Upon these principles

Let the Institution be formed in as clear, distinct and explicit terms as language can convey. Let the Secretary transmit the same to the Senior Foreign Member in France, or the Senior Land and Naval Officer in that Kingdom (if it shall be adjudged better) for their government. Send copies also to the President of each State Society. Accompany all of these with a well composed letter, expressive of the reasons which induced us to alter the constitution.

#### Then

Abolish the General Meetings altogether, as unnecessary; the Constitution being given, a continuation of them would be expensive, and very probably from a diversity of Sentiment, and tenacity of opinion might be productive of more dissension than harmony; for it has been well observed "that nothing loosens the bands of private friendship more, than for friends to pit themselves against each other in public debate, where every one is free to speak and to act." District meetings might also be discontinued as of very little use, but attractive of much speculation.

No alterations short of what is here enumerated will, in my opinion, reconcile the Society to the Community, whether these will do it, is questionable.

Without being possessed of the reasons which induce many Gentlemen to retain the order or badge of the Society, it will

be conceived by the public that this order (which except in its perpetuity still appears in the same terrific array as at first) is a feather we cannot consent to pluck from *ourselves*, tho' we have taken it from our descendants. If we assign the reasons, we might I presume as well discontinue the order.<sup>20</sup>

### TO CHEVALIER DE LA LUZERNE

Philadelphia, May 5, 1784.

Sir: It was not until Capt. Hardwine deliver'd the Claret your Excellency was so obliging as to spare me, that I had the least knowledge of its being sent. In consequence of your kind offer to furnish me with three hogsheads, I wrote to Colo. Tilghman (at Baltimore) requesting him to receive and forward it to me; and obtained for answer, that before your Excellys. order had reached your agent at that place, the Wine had been shipped for Phila. In this belief and ignorance, I remained 'till the Wine was actually delivered to me when you were at my Seat in Virginia.

I have given the trouble of reading this detail to apologize for my not having paid for the Wine sooner. Colo. Biddle will now have the honor of doing it, and I pray your Excellency to receive my thanks for the favor you did me by sparing this quantity from your own Stock. With the greatest personal attachment etc.<sup>21</sup>

<sup>20</sup> This is the draft of Washington's suggested changes in the original Institution of the Society of the Cincinnati. An attested copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Society (May 4-10, 1784) at which these suggestions were made is in the *Washington Papers*.

On May 4 Washington wrote a formal note in the third person to a Mr. S[amuel] L[ow], an author, of New York, declining "the honor of his dedication." This note is in the Museum at the Washington Newburgh Headquarters, Newburgh, N. Y.

<sup>21</sup> From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

On May 5 Washington wrote brief notes to Benjamin Franklin and the Marquis de Lafayette, introducing Nathaniel Tracy, of Massachusetts. The note to Franklin is in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. A copy of the letter to Lafayette is in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.



## \*To CLEMENT BIDDLE

Phila., May 6, 1784.

Dear Sir: You will do me a favr. by executing the enclosed Memms.

The reason why I had rather the Wine (had of the Chevr. de la Luzerne) should be paid for by a third person, shall be given to you when I see you.

To send the articles wanted by the first Vessel bound to Alexandria, would be very convenient, and you wd. do me a kindness to agree for, and express what the freight shall be. I have suffered great impositions by the charges of some skippers, rather than enter into a contraversy, or dispute their Accts. I send you enclosed 250 dollars to pay the Chevr., and for the things now desired. If Burgundy and Champaign is to be had *now*, as Cheap as I am told it sold a while ago, or any other *good* Wine of that sort *very* cheap, I should be glad to get, and send some round. but your previous information may be best.

If I could see a small slipe of the plain blew and green paper, with a sample of the paupier-Maché and gilded borders, I should be glad of it. In a hurry I am etc. My Letter to the Chevr. is left open for your perusal, please to seal it before delivery, which I wish may be soon.

[H. S. P.]

## \*To CLEMENT BIDDLE

May 7, 1784.

Dear Sir: As the oppertunity to Potomack will be good, I return the Box you sent the other day, in order that it may go by the Ship Fortune with the other things. As my purchase of any of the sorts of Wine (enumerated in my letter of yesterday) will depend upon the price, which *sometime ago* I heard was *incredibly low*, you would oblige me, if you know the rates

they are at present, by the information. I have heard the same acct. given of other articles, broad Cloths particularly, of which I would take a piece of my livery colored if it cd. be had at the prices it has sold.

Upon second thoughts a dozn. and an half of Windsor Chairs will be suffict. (I think my Memm. requested two dozn.) but I should be glad to have Almonds and other Nutts and a Box or two of Spirme Cete Candles sent. I am etc.

[H. S. P.]

### TO REVEREND WILLIAM GORDON

Philadelphia, May 8, 1784.

Revd. Sir: Every aid which can be derived from my official papers, I am willing to afford, and shall with much pleasure lay before you, whenever the latter can be unfolded with propriety.

It ever has been my opinion however, that no Historian can be possessed of sufficient materials to compile a *perfect* history of the revolution, who has not free access to the archives of Congress, to those of the respective States; to the papers of the Commander in chief, and to those of the officers who have been employed in separate Departments. Combining and properly arranging the information which is to be obtained from these sources must bring to view all the material occurrences of the War. Some things probably, will never be known.

Added to this, I have always thought that it would be respectful to the Sovereign power of these United States, to *follow*, rather than to take the lead of them in disclosures of this kind: but if there should be political restraints under which Congress are not inclined at this time to lay open their papers; and these restraints do not in their opinion extend to mine, the same being signified by that honorable Body to me, my

objections to your request will cease. I shall be happy then, as at all times to see you at Mount Vernon, and will lay before you with cheerfulness, my *public* papers for your information. With great esteem and regard, I am, etc.<sup>22</sup>

\*TO GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL

Philadelphia, May 15, 1784.

Dear Sir: It was with great pleasure and thankfulness, I received a recognizance of your friendship in your letter of the 20th. of last month.

It is indeed a pleasure, from the walks of private life to view in retrospect, all the meanderings of our past labors, the difficulties through which we have waded, and the fortunate Haven to which the Ship has been brought! Is it possible after this that it should founder? Will not the All Wise, and all powerfull director of human events, preserve it? I think he will, he may however (for wise purposes not discoverable by finite minds) suffer our indiscretions and folly to place our national character low in the political Scale; and this, unless more wisdom and less prejudice take the lead in our governments, will most assuredly be the case.

Believe me, my dear Sir, there is no disparity in our ways of thinking and acting, tho there may happen to be a little in the years we have lived; which places the advantages of the correspondence between us to my Acct., as I shall benefit more by your experience and observations than you can by mine. No correspondence can be more pleasing than one which originates from similar sentiments, and similar Conduct through (tho'

<sup>22</sup>From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

On May 8 Washington furnished the usual form of a certificate of service to Lieut. Louis Joseph de Beaulieu, of Pulaski's Legion. A copy of this certificate is in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

not a long War, the importance of it, and attainments considered) a painful contest. I pray you therefore to continue me among the number of your friends, and to favor me with such observations as shall occur.

As my good friend Colo. Trumbull is perfectly acquainted with the proceedings of the meeting<sup>23</sup> which brought us together, our embarrassments, and final decisions, I will refer the detail of them to him. With the most perfect esteem etc.

[C. H. S.]

\*To PHILIP SCHUYLER

Phila., May 15, 1784.

My dear Sir: It has long been my wish, and until lately my intention to have proceeded from this meeting of the Cincinnati to the Falls of Niagara, and probably into Canada. Two causes however prevent it. My business is of such a nature that I cannot, without great inconvenience, be long absent from home, at this juncture; it is indeed, exceedingly inconvenient to be away from it at all; the other is, that I am not disposed to be indebted for a Passport into that Country to the British whose *convenient speed* has not permitted them to surrender the Western Posts to us yet.

I cannot but thank you however, my good Sir, for the polite and friendly offers contained in your letters of the 6th. and 12th. Instt.<sup>24</sup> both of which are safe at hand; if ever I should have it in my power to make an excursion of that kind nothing could add more to the pleasure of it than having you of the party.

We have been most amazingly embarrassed in the business that brought us here.<sup>25</sup> It is now drawing to a conclusion, and

<sup>23</sup> Of the Society of the Cincinnati.

<sup>24</sup> Not now found in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>25</sup> Meeting of the Society of the Cincinnati.

will soon be given to the Public, otherwise I would relate it in detail. Mrs. Washington is not with me at this place, otherwise I am sure she wd. join me in best respects to Mrs. Schuyler and yourself. With the greast esteem etc. [HV.L.]

\*To COMTE DE GRASSE

Philadelphia, May 15, 1784.

My dear Count: It was at this place I had the honor to receive your favor of the 15th. of March, from L'Orient. The confidence with which you have honored me is a pleasing testimony of your friendship. It shall not be abused; and the promise you have given me, of transmitting the determination of the Court Martial,<sup>26</sup> I shall look for the fulfilment of with impatience; but under full persuation that the enquiry will throw additional lustre on your character. "It was not in your power to command success; but you did more, you deserved it."

I thank you for the memorials you have had the goodness to send me; it is unhappy for me however that I am not sufficiently Master of the French language to read them without assistance; this, when fully obtained will, I have no doubt, enable my judgment to coincide with my wishes; which are as favorable as those of your warmest friend, and greatest admirer can be. With the most respectful attachment, I remain etc.<sup>27</sup>

To COMTE D'ESTAING

Philadelphia, May 15, 1784.

Sir: Any token of regard of whatever intrinsic worth in itself, coming from the Count D'Estaing, must [be] stamped with

<sup>26</sup> Of De Grasse for his defeat by Rodney off Martinique in 1782.

<sup>27</sup> From a facsimile of a tracing of the original in "Leboucher," *Hist. de la Guerre de l'Independence des Etats-Unis* (Paris: 1837), vol. 2, p. 328.

dignity and respect; but when attended with the esteem and regards of all the Sailors of your Nation, the companions of your honorable Toils in America, is not only agreeably acceptable, it becomes absolutely inestimable. As such I receive the American Eagle,<sup>28</sup> which your Excellency has been pleased to present me in the name of all the Sailors of the French Nation. And at the same time that I acknowledge myself hereby inexpressibly honored by that most respectable Body of men. I beg you to assure them in my name of the very high estimation in which I shall ever hold this particular mark of their regard and attention.

To the Navy of France sir, this Country will hold itself deeply indebted: its assistance has rendered practicable those enterprizes, which without it could not with any probability of success, have been attempted. I feel myself happy in this opportunity thro' your Excellency's favour, of paying to the Officers and sailors of His Most Christian Majesty, this tribute of grateful acknowledgment, which I beg you sir to be so obliging as to convey to them, and at the same time to assure yourself of possessing in my breast, every sentiment of inviolable attachment and respect, with which your character has impressed my mind. I have the honor, etc.<sup>29</sup>

### TO COMTE D'ESTAING

Philadelphia, May 15, 1784.

Sir: I cannot my dear General express to you all the gratitude which I feel for your very great politeness manifested for

<sup>28</sup> This was the diamond eagle of the Society of the Cincinnati. D'Estaing's letter of presentation (Feb. 26, 1784) is in the *Washington Papers*. For an illuminating letter respecting the diamond eagle see D'Estaing's letter to La Luzerne (Feb. 18, 1784), printed in "Contenson," *La Société des Cincinnati de France* (Paris: 1934), p. 88.

<sup>29</sup> From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

me in your letter of the 25th. of Decr.; which I now have the honor and pleasure to acknowledge. The very tender and friendly regards which you are pleased to mention as possessing your mind, for my person and character, have affected me with the deepest sensibility; and will be forever remembered as a most agreeable token from the Count D'Estaing, for whose character as a Gentleman and a soldier, and for whose attention to the American interests and cause, I have ever been impressed with the highest veneration.

I feel myself happy that your Excellency countenances with so much cordiality, the association formed by the officers of the American army, a bond of cement Sir, which if any thing could be wanting for that purpose, will I trust serve to render durable and permanent those mutual friendships and connections, which have happily taken root between the officers of your Army and ours. And I am peculiarly happy to be able to inform you that the wishes expressed in your letter are more than fulfilled; since by the institutions of our Society, as amended and altered at their General Meeting in this City held during the present month, and which will be officially forwarded to the Society in France; your Excellency will find that the honors of it are extended, not only to the few Gentlemen honor'd by your particular mention, but to all the Captns. ranking as Colonels in your Navy; which, altho' not clearly expressed in the original Constitution, is now in the fullest terms provided for and not left to doubtful implication.

I am much pleased with the prospect of soon having the pleasure of seeing in this country our mutual worthy friend de la Fayette. Be assur'd Sir, I shall be among the warmest of his friends who will welcome him to the American shore; and rejoice in an opportunity to embrace him in my arms. I am pleased that our confidence in Majr. L'Enfant has been so

honorably placed, and that the business entrusted to that Gents'. conduct has been executed to so great satisfaction. With the highest regard, etc.<sup>30</sup>

\*TO COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU

Philadelphia, May 17, 1784.

My dear Count: From the official letters and other proceedings of the general meeting of the Society of the Cincinnati, held at this place, and of which you have copies; you will obtain a thorough knowledge of what the Society have been doing, and the ground upon which it was done; to enter therefore into a further detail of the matter, in this letter, would be mere repetition, alike troublesome and unnecessary.

The Society could not go into too minute a discrimination of characters, and thinking it best to comprehend, its members by general description, those who will constitute the Society in France must, hereafter, decide upon the pretensions of their Countryman upon the principles of the institution as they are now altered and amended.<sup>31</sup>

I will detain you no longer than while I can repeat the assurances of sincere respect and esteem etc.<sup>32</sup>

<sup>30</sup> From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

In the *Papers of the Society of the Cincinnati* are drafts or copies of form letters from Washington, some of them in the writing of George Turner, assistant secretary general of the Society, to the following: Rochambeau, Armand, Bougainville, Viomenil, all dated May 15. To Barras, Lafayette, Luzerne, D'Estaing, and to the senior land and naval officers and other members of the Society of the Cincinnati in France, all dated May 17, 1784. These relating entirely to the affairs of the Cincinnati and signed by Washington, as president general of the society, are omitted here.

On May 16 Washington wrote, briefly, to Comte de Rochambeau, recommending Armand, who wished employment in the French Army. This letter is in the *Rochambeau Papers* in the Library of Congress. (See Washington's letter to Marquis de La Rouerie, May 28, 1784, *post.*)

<sup>31</sup> The alterations and amendments, however, were not adopted, and the original Institution still prevails. (See *The Institution of the Society of the Cincinnati*, by Francis Apthorp Foster, assistant secretary general (Boston: 1923).)

<sup>32</sup> From the original in the *Rochambeau Papers* in the Library of Congress.



## \*To CLEMENT BIDDLE

Tuesday Morning, May 18, 1784.

Dear Sir: Rather than wait, and thereby hazard delay, I would purchase Copper at the present price for all the purposes mentioned in your estimate, the Spouts, or Trunks excepted; the want of these, as they do not retard the Work may remain a while longer.

Pray let me have your Acct. before Nine oclock, as I hope to set off soon after that hour and wish to pay the Balle. before I go. I am etc.

PS. As you forgot to put up the Bill for the Nuts I do not know [the] sorts you have sent. [H.S.P.]

\*EXPENSE ACCOUNT OF ATTENDING THE  
CINCINNATI MEETING IN PHILADELPHIA

[Mount Vernon], May 24, 1784.

The Society of the Cincinnati Dr to General Washington

	Pensa. Cury.
Apl. 26th. To ferriage, crossing Potomk. River	9. 6
Dining &ca. at Upper Marlborh.	19. 9
Lodging &ca. at Rawlins's	2. 0. 7
27 To Ferriage at South River	9. 4
28 To Expences in Annapolis	4. 11. 3
Ferriages to Rock-hall pr. Middleton <sup>23</sup>	5. 10.
Oats &ca. for the passage	8.
Servants at Annapolis	3. 9

In S. A. Harrison's *Memoir of Lieut. Col. Tench Tilghman* (1876), p. 111, is printed a brief note from Washington to Tilghman (May 18, 1784), sending to Tilghman one of the Cincinnati eagles, and mentioning that Washington intended to send one to each of his former aides-de-camp. No draft of this note is found in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>23</sup> Gilbert Middleton.

29	To Expenses at Spencers <sup>84</sup> Tavern	2. 3. 4
	Ditto at New Town <sup>85</sup> Chester	1. 7. 6
30	To Ditto at the cross roads	1. 19. 6
	Ditto at Middle Town	12. 9
	Ditto at New castle	1. 11. 9
May 1	To Ditto at Wilmington	2. 1. 7
	Ditto at Chester	1. 4. 6
	Servants at Diff. Stages	7. 6
	Ferriage at Schoolkill	1. 8
17	To Barber sundry times	1. 5. 10
	Washing—during my stay in Phila.	2. 15. 8
	Livery Stable—Mr. Hiltzimer <sup>86</sup>	16. 6. 7
	Servants Board	9. 3. 2
	Mr. Morris's Servants and other Exps. there	5. 15
	Exps. at the City Tavern	3. 10
18	To Ferriage over the Schoolkill	1. 8
	Exps. at Chester	1. 1. 3
	Ferriage over Christiana	2. 2
19	To Exps. at Newcastle	1. 10. 10
	Ditto at Middle Town	12. 9
20	To Ditto at New Town Chester	2. 18. 4
	Ditto at Rock hall	3. 8. 4
	Ferriages to Annapolis	5. 13. 8
22	To Exps. in Annapolis—pr. Mr. Mann <sup>87</sup>	3. 17. 4
	Carried over	£84. 4. 10
May 22	To Ferriage over South River <sup>88</sup>	8. 4
	Expences at Rawlins's Tavern	17.
	Ferriage over Patuxent	5.
23	To Ditto—over Potomack	9. 6
		£86. 4. 8
	Errors Excepted	
	pr. Go: Washington	

<sup>84</sup> Richard Spencer.<sup>85</sup> At New Town Washington stopped at the tavern of Edward Worrell.<sup>86</sup> Jacob Hiltzheimer.<sup>87</sup> George Mann.<sup>88</sup> The ferryman who ferried Washington across South River was named Hodges.

## TO MARQUISE DE LA ROUERIE

Mount Vernon, May 28, 1784.

Madam: The Letter which you did me the honor to write from Rouerie on the 12th. of Jany. came to my hands in the course of this month. Language, or my ability, is too poor to express the sense of obligation I am laid under for the flattering sentiments contained therein: let your goodness then Madam, rather than a vain attempt of mine, speak my gratitude.

It is on the merits of your Son, not to any recommendation of mine, the Marqs. de la Rouerie must put in his claim to the smiles of his Prince, and the attention of his Ministers. For me it only belongs to do justice to his services by the most ample certificates of them, which he has obtained from me, and they are accompanied with my warmest wishes for his success. He, more effectually than *I*, can assure you of the great esteem, regard and veneration, with which I have the honor, etc.<sup>39</sup>

\*TO THE SOUTH CAROLINA SENATE AND HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 28, 1784.

Gentn.: It was with pleasure which is more easy to conceive than express I received your congratulations on the restoration of Peace, and the happy establishment of the freedom, and Independence of the United States of America.<sup>40</sup>

To meet the plaudits of my Countrymen for the part I have acted in the Revolution, more than compensates for the toils I

<sup>39</sup> From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>40</sup> The address to the South Carolina Senate and House of Representatives, dated Feb. 10, 1784, is in the *Washington Papers*.

On May 28 Washington wrote, jointly, to John Lloyd and Hugh Rutledge, president of the Senate and speaker of the House of Representatives, respectively, of South Carolina, inclosing his answer. This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

have undergone in the course of an arduous contest; and to have them expressed in such indulgent, and flattering terms as are contained in your Communication of the 10th. of Feby. is not more honorable than it is pleasing.

Permit me, Gentlemen, on this occasion of general joy, to congratulate you and your State in a particular manner upon its present repose, and recovery from those scenes of accumulated distresses for which it has been remarkable. and whilst we have abundt. cause to rejoice at the fair prospect which a beneficent Provide. has ld. before us to assure you of my entire belief that the wisdom and liberallity of the People of So. Carolina will leave nothing unessayed to make the revolution as beneficial to mankind as it hath been glorious in the Accomplishmt.

For the favorable wishes you have kindly bestowed on me you have all my gratitude; and my prayers for the welfare of your State, shall never cease.

\*To THOMAS BEE

Mount Vernon, May 28, 1784.

Sir: I acknowledge the receipt of your favor dated the 5th. of March, enclosing a unanimous vote of the Charleston library Society electing me an honorary member of their body with the certe. thereof end.<sup>41</sup>

For this mark of attention, and for the honor done me by enrolling my name as a member of so respectable a society, formed for such generous and laudable purposes, I beg the favor of you, Sir, to present my gratitude and best wishes for the completion of its objects; which, from the repose we have a prospect of enjoying, is scarcely to be doubted.

<sup>41</sup> This certificate, dated Jan. 13, 1784, is in the *Washington Papers*.

If it shou'd ever be in my power to offer any thing which may be useful, or that can afford the least satisfaction to the society, it will contribute not a little to my pleasure to do it. With the greatest respect and esteem etc.

### TO MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Mount Vernon, June 2, 1784.

My Dear Sir: The inconvenience with which I left home, and my impatience to return to it, hastened every step I took back, and but for the delay I met with in crossing the Bay, I might have been at home with ease on the Friday after I parted with you. Before eight on thursday morning I was at rock-hall, and not until friday evening could I get my horses and carriages over to Annapolis.

It is a real misfortune, that in great national concerns, the Sovereign has not sufficient power to act, or that there should be a contrariety of sentiment among themselves respecting this power. While these matters are in litigation, the public interest is suspended, and important advantages are lost. this will be the case respecting the Western Posts.

My address to Congress, respecting the Gentlemen who had composed my Family, went to two points, neither of which in my judgment could be misconceived; the first, was declaratory of the peculiar services and particular merits of those confidential Officers, who, during the War, had been attached to my person. The second, commendatory of those who remained in that situation to the hour of my resignation. the latter was

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On May 28 Washington wrote briefly to Armand, inclosing the letter to Rochambeau of May 16, to his care. "My best wishes always shall attend you, and nothing would give me more pleasure than to hear that you had attained the summit of your desires, in whatever walk of life you may bend your course." A copy of this letter is in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

not confined to Humphreys and Walker who happened to be with me, but comprehended Cobb, Trumbull, and others who might come under *that* description, whose appointments terminated with my own existence as an officer.

It would at this time, as it will at all others, give me singular pleasure to see you at this place; and I am sorry your anxiety to return would not permit you to extend your excursion from Annapolis.

Permit me to recommend the enclosed for Genl. Putnam, to your care. Mrs. Washington joins in best wishes for you, Mrs. Knox and family, with Dr. Sir Yrs. etc.<sup>42</sup>

\*TO RUFUS PUTNAM

Mount Vernon, June 2, 1784.

Dear Sir: I could not answer your favor of the 5th. of April from Philadelpa. because Genl. Knox having mislaid, only presented the letter to me in the moment of my departure from that place. The Sentiments of esteem and friendship which breathe in it are exceedingly pleasing and flattering to me; and you may rest assured they are reciprocal.

I wish it was in my power to give you a more favorable acct. of the Officers petition for Lands on the Ohio, and its Waters than I am about to do. After this matter, and information respecting the establishment for Peace, were my enquiries as I went through Annapolis solely directed but I could not learn that any thing decisive had been done in either. On the latter I hear Congress are differing about their powers but as they have accepted of the Cession from Virginia and have resolved to lay off 10 New States bounded by latitudes and longitudes it should be supposed that they would determine something

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<sup>42</sup>From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

respecting the former before they adjourn; and yet, I very much question it as the latter is to happen on the third; that is to morrow.

As the Congress who are to meet in November next by the adjournment will be composed from an entire new choice of Delegates in each State it is not in my power at *this time* to direct you to a proper correspondent in that body. I wish I could, for perswaded I am that to some such cause as you have assigned may be ascribed the delay the petition has encountered for *surely* if *justice and gratitude* to the Army; and *genl. policy* of the Union were to govern in this case there would not be the smallest interruption in granting its request. I really feel for those Gentlemen who by these unaccountable delays (by any other means than those you have suggested) are held in such an aukward and disagreeable State of suspence; and wish my endeavours could remove the obstacles; at Princeton (before Congress left that place) I exerted every power I was master of, and dwelt upon the Arguments you have used to shew the propriety of a speedy decision; every member with whom I conversed acquiesced in the reasonableness of the petition; all yielded, or seemed to yield to the policy of it, but plead the want of cession of the Land to act upon; this is made and accepted and yet matters (as far as they have come to my knowledge) remain in Statu quo.

I am endeavouring to do something with the lands I now hold, and have held in that Country these 12 or 14 years. The enclosed contain the terms upon which I propose to Lease them.<sup>48</sup> I am not sanguine in my expectation that I shall obtain Tenants upon them in this Country; and yet, on Leases renewable forever, or for the term of 999 years I will not (considering the advantages of these Lands, in quality and situation) take

<sup>48</sup> See Advertisement, Mar. 10, 1784, *ante*.

less, for a *short* term I care little about the Rents because knowing the value and convenience of the Land, I am certain that the improvements which are conditioned to be made thereon, will enable me thereafter to command my own terms; if you think the promulgation of the Paper enclosed can be of Service to others or myself it is optional with you to do it. I am etc."

### TO THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE

Mount Vernon, June 2, 1784.

Dear Sir: A brother of mine (Father to Mr. Bushrod Washington, who studied under Mr. Wilson) is desirous of entering his other Son in the commercial line; the inclination of the young Gentleman also points to this walk of life, he is turned of twenty, has just finished a regular education, possesses, I am told (for he is a stranger to me) good natural abilities, an amiable disposition, and an uncommon share of prudence and circumspection.

Would it suit you My dear sir, to take him into your counting-house, and to afford him your patronage? If this is not convenient; who would you recommend for this purpose? What advance, and what other requisites are necessary to initiate him? Excuse this trouble, to comply with the wishes of a parent, anxious for the welfare of his children, I give it, and my friendship prompted it; but I wish you to be perfectly unembarrassed by the application, on either Accot.

If Genl. Armand should have left Philada. you will oblige me by placing the enclosed in the readiest channel of conveyance. My affectionate regards, in which Mrs. Washington joins me, attend Mrs. Morris, yourself and Family. With every sentiment of friendship etc.

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"From the original in Marietta College.



P. S. The house I filled with ice does not answer, it is gone already, if you will do me the favor to cause a description of yours to be taken, the size, manner of building, and mode of management, and forwarded to me, I shall be much obliged. My house was filled chiefly with Snow. have you ever tried Snow? do you think it is owing to this that I am lurchd.\*

### TO CHEVALIER DE CHASTELLUX

Mount Vernon, June 2, 1784.

My Dr. Sir: I had the honor to receive a short letter from you by Majr. L'Enfant. My official letter to the Counts D'Estaing and Rochambeau (which I expect will be submitted to the members of the Society of the Cincinnati in France) will inform you of the proceedings of the Genl. Meeting held at Philada. on the 3d. inst.; and of the reasons which induced a departure from some of the original principles and rules of the Society. As these have been detailed, I will not repeat them, and as we have no occurrences out of the common course, except the establishment of ten New States in the Western Territory, and the appointment of Mr. Jefferson (whose talents and worth are well known to you) as one of the Commissioners for forming Commercial Treaties in Europe; I will only repeat to you the assurances of my friendship, and of the pleasure I shou'd feel in seeing you in the shade of those trees which my hands have planted, and which by their rapid growth, at once indicate a knowledge of my declination, and their disposition to spread their mantles over me, before I go hence to return no more, for this, their gratitude, I will nurture them while I stay.

Before I conclude, permit me to recommend Colo. Humphreys, who is appointed Secretary to the Commission, to your

\*From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

countenance and civilities while he remains in France; he possesses an excellent heart, and a good understanding. With every sentiment of esteem, etc.<sup>46</sup>

### TO DAVID HUMPHREYS

Mount Vernon, June 2, 1784.

My Dr. Humphreys: I very sincerely congratulate you on your late appointment.<sup>47</sup> It is honorable, and I dare say must be agreeable. I did not hear of it until I arrived at Annapolis, where I remained but one day, and that occasioned by the detention of my Carriage and horses on the Eastern shore. Genl. Knox not reaching that place before I left it, your letter of the 18th., only got to my hands on Sunday last, by the Post.

I now send you, under flying Seals, letters to Mr. Jefferson, Doctr. Franklin and Count de Estaing; the letter to the Chevr. Chartellux also mentions you and your appointment. My former correspondence with England ceased at the commencement of hostilities, and I have opened no new ones since, but I enclose you a letter to Sir Edwd. Newenham of Ireland, from whom I have lately received several very polite letters, and a pressing invitation to correspond with him. he has been a warm friend to America during her whole struggle, he is a man of fortune, of excellent (as I am told) character; and may, if you should go to Ireland, be a valuable acquaintance.<sup>48</sup>

<sup>46</sup>From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>47</sup>Humphreys had been elected secretary to the United States Commission for negotiating European treaties of commerce on May 12, 1784.

<sup>48</sup>On this same day (June 2) Washington furnished Humphreys with a certificate of his military services as aide-de-camp, and wrote on that same day, also, introductory letters to Comte D'Estaing, Benjamin Franklin, George William Fairfax, Sir Edward Newenham, and to Thomas Jefferson, who had been appointed one of the Commissioners. The purport of all these letters was the same. Copies of all of them are in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*. The original of the letter to Franklin is in the collection of Judge Edward Ambler Armstrong, of Princeton, N. J., and the original of the letter to Jefferson is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

It only remains for me now to wish you a pleasant passage, and that you may realize all the pleasures which you must have in expectation. It cannot be necessary to add how happy I shall be at all times to hear from you. You will have it in your power to contribute much to my amusement and information; and as far as you can do the latter consistently with your duty and public trust, I shall be obliged, further I do not require, and even here, mark *private* what you think not altogether fit for the public ear, and it shall remain with me. Mrs. Washington adds her best wishes for you, and you may rest assured that few friendships are warmer, or professions more sincere than mine for you. Adieu etc.

P. S. Just recollecting my old neighbour Colonel (who may now be Lord) Fairfax, I give you a letter to him also, in case you shou'd go to England.<sup>49</sup>

### TO GOVERNOR BENJAMIN HARRISON

Mount Vernon, June 4, 1784.

Dr. Sir: Long as the enclosed letters and petition appear to have been written, they never came to my hands until thursday last; the latter, altho called a copy, having the marks of an original paper; another copy accompanying it, inducing a belief that it is so, I delay not a moment to hand it forward.

My being perfectly ignorant of the laws of the Commonwealth, and unacquainted, if such confiscations have taken place, with the principles upon which they are founded, must be my apology for taking the liberty of even bringing these papers before the Legislature, for it is not my wish to interfere in the politic's of the State, nor desire, to see discriminations or departures from general principles, which are not

<sup>49</sup>From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

warranted by Law or evident propriety; altho' in the present case, it should seem to me hard to divest an Infant, under the circumstances young Briston<sup>80</sup> is described to be, of his partrimony.

As the petition<sup>81</sup> is directed to the Governr. the Senate and House of Delegates of the State of Virginia, I conceived it best to transmit it, and the Letters relative thereto, to your Excellency. With great consideration and respect, I have the honor, etc.<sup>82</sup>

TO SIR EDWARD NEWENHAM<sup>83</sup>

Mount Vernon, June 10, 1784.

Dr. Sir: At Philadelphia in the moment of my departure from it on the 18th. of last month, I had the honor to receive (by the Convention, Capt. Workman) your favors of the 30th. of Jany. and 15th. of March; and I recollect to have received about three years ago, by the hands, if I remember right, of a Mr. Collins, a short introductory letter of that Gentleman from you. If you have favored me with others, I have not been happy enough to have received them.

For the honor of these letters, and the favorable sentiments they express of me, you have my sincerest thanks. To stand well in the estimation of good men and honest patriots, whether of this or that clime, or of this or that political way of thinking, has ever been a favorite wish of mine; and to have obtained, by such pursuits as duty to my Country, and the rights of mankind rendered indispensably necessary, the plaudit of Sir Edwd. Newenham, will not be among my smallest felicities. Yes Sir, it was long before you honored

<sup>80</sup> Robert Briston, of London, England.

<sup>81</sup> The original letter and petition of Mary Briston is in the *Washington Papers* under date of Nov. 27, 1783.

<sup>82</sup> From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>83</sup> Of Dublin, Ireland.

me with a line, I became acquainted with your name, your worth and your political tenets; and I rejoice that my own conduct has been such as to acquire your esteem, and to be invited to your friendship. I accept it Sir, with the eagerness of a congenial spirit, and shall be happy in every opportunity of giving you proofs of its rectitude, but none will be more pleasing to me than the opportunity of welcoming you, or any of your family, to this land of liberty; and to *this* my retreat from the cares of public life; where in home-spun and with rural fare, we will invite you to our bed and board.

Your intention of making an establishment for one of your sons, either in Pennsylvania or this State, gives me pleasure: if it should be in the latter, or if you should come to this State first; every information or assistance which it may be in my power to give you, shall be rendered with great pleasure; and I shall have pleasure also in paying attention to your recommendation of others.

This is an abounding Country, and it is as fine as it is extensive. With a little political wisdom it may become equally populous and happy. Some of the States having been misled, ran riot for a while, but they are recovering a proper tone again; and I have *no* doubt, but that our federal Constitution will obtain more consistency and firmness every day. We have indeed so plain a road before us, that it must be worse than ignorance if we miss it.

We have no distinct account yet how the Elections have gone in Gt. Britain; consequently do not know the result of the Kings appeal to the people of that Country; it is a very important one, and shews that the affairs of that Kingdom are in a critical situation. This being the case also in Ireland, it would not be matter of wonder, if some important changes should take place in those hemispheres.

I am much obliged to you for the Pamphlets, Magazines and Gazettes which you were so kind as to send me; and can only repeat to you assurances of the pleasure I shou'd have in seeing you under my roof. Mrs. Washington joins me in best respects to Lady Newenham, to whom, for receiving, and the Marqs. de la Fayette, for presenting my picture, I feel myself under grateful obligations. You will please to accept my thanks for your friendly offers of service in Ireland; if at any time I should have any thing to do there, there is no person to whom I would so soon chuse to lay under the obligation. I have the honor, etc.<sup>54</sup>

#### TO CALEB BREWSTER

Mount Vernon, June 10, 1784.

Sir: I believe you have been misinformed as to a resolve of Congress, allowing officers on separate commands, extra pay, I have heard, of no such resolution, on the contrary, that these allowances were withdrawn. It was with great difficulty General Knox could obtain compensation for his extra-expences during his commd. at the post of West-point, where from the nature of it, he was absolutely obliged to encounter them, or turn strangers out of his house. I know also that application was made in favor of Lt. Colo. Hull, who, whilst he was on the lines, exposed to the visits; and in a manner compelled to entertain a number of British officers, and had it not at his option to avoid expence, but with what success it was made I have never heard; this however I do know, that there were powerful objections made to both, lest it should open a door to a multitude of applications which Congress were determined not to comply with.

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<sup>54</sup>From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

Lest I shou'd be mistaken, in supposing there is no such resolve as you allude to, I enclose a Certificate<sup>55</sup> which may be made use of, if there is.

I hope you soon will be, if you are not already, perfectly recovered of your wound, my best wishes are offered for it; being with esteem and regard, Dr. Sir, Yrs. etc.<sup>56</sup>

\* To DAVID STUART

Mount Vernon, June 11, 1784.

Dear Sir: A few days ago, I received the enclosed letter and copy of an intended address to be presented on thursday next. I have drafted an answer which I pray you to look over, correct, and amend as you may find occasion, and think best. Return it if you please by Austin,<sup>57</sup> or Fanny Bassett. I am glad to hear Mrs. Stuart<sup>58</sup> is better, my Compliments and good wishes to her. I am with very great esteem etc. [HD.L.]

To JAMES WOOD

Mount Vernon, June 12, 1784.

Dr. Sir: In answer to your favor of the 5th., I have to inform you that I can find nothing in my letter or orderly books confirmatory or disapproving the arrangements which have been made of the Virginia line of the army in the year 1782. the

<sup>55</sup> This certificate stated "that in the year 1778, whilst the American Army lay at the White plains, it became necessary to station an officer and a few men, on the Sound to keep open a communication with the City of New York by the way of Long Island, for the purpose of my secret correspondence: that Capt. Lt. Brewster of the 2d. regiment of Artillery was chosen for this service; that circumstances made it necessary to continue him therein until the close of the War. And as far as I know or believe, that he conducted the business with fidelity, judgment and bravery, having received a wound whilst he was on that duty, of which I am informed, he is not yet recovered." This copy is in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>56</sup> From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>57</sup> Lawrence Augustine Washington(?).

<sup>58</sup> Eleanor Calvert Custis Stuart.

presumption therefore is, if they ever came to hand, that they either obtained a silent acquiescence, or that I did not care to intermeddle in them at all, as part of the line was in So. Carolina, and the whole (by a resolve of Congress) were considered as belonging to the Southern army. If I should hereafter come across anything which can illucidate the point more fully, it shall be transmitted to you.<sup>89</sup>

It gives me pleasure to hear that the alterations in the institution of the Society of the Cincinnati meets general approbation, if a sincere disposition in those who composed the general Meeting to remove *all* the objectionable parts of it, and give satisfaction to their Country, could have a claim to its approbation; their conduct cou'd not fail of this reward. With very great esteem etc.<sup>90</sup>

\*To JAMES MADISON

Mount Vernon, June 12, 1784.

Dear Sir: Can nothing be done in our Assembly for poor Paine? Must the merits, and Services of *Common Sense* continue to glide down the stream of time, unrewarded by this Country? His writings certainly have had a powerful effect on the public mind; ought they not then to meet an adequate return? He is poor! he is chagreened! and almost, if not altogether, in despair of relief. New York it is true, not the least distressed, nor best able State in the Union, has done something for him. This kind of provision he prefers to an allowance from Congress; he has reasons for it, which to him are conclusive, and such I think as would have weight with others. His views are moderate; a decent independency is, I believe, all he aims at. Should he not obtain this? If you think so, I am sure you will

<sup>89</sup>The right of superseded Virginia officers to be awarded Virginia land grants.

<sup>90</sup>From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.



not only move the matter, but give it your support. For me, it only remains to feel for his Situation, and to assure you of the sincere esteem and regard with which I have the honor &c.<sup>61</sup>

### TO PATRICK HENRY

Mount Vernon, June 12, 1784.

Dear Sir: After a long silence, more the effect of great hurry and business, than want of inclination; permit me to recall myself to your mind, by introducing to your recollection Mr. Paine, the Author of Commonsense, the Crisis &c.

To say what effect the writings of this Gentleman has had on our public affairs at the epochas at which they were given to the world, would, to a person of your information, be altogether unnecessary; it is more for his interest, and to my present purpose to add, that he stands unrewarded for his exertions in the American cause, is poor, and I believe very much chagrined at the little notice which has been taken of him for his lucubrations.

New York, lately, has testified her sense of his merits by a donation which is very pleasing to him; and from individual States, rather than from Congress (for reasons which seem to have weight in his mind,) he wishes they might be continued in this line. If his services appear in your eyes to merit reward, I am persuaded you will endeavor to do justice to them.

I mention this matter to you equally unsolicited by, as unknown to him; for I never have heard that he has it in contemplation to bring himself before any State in the Union. Convinced as I am of the efficacy of his publications, and of

<sup>61</sup> From a facsimile in a sales catalogue, 1892.

Madison's reply (July 2) told of the defeat of a land grant to Paine in the Virginia Legislature. Madison's letter is in the *Washington Papers*. The draft of it, in the *Madison Papers*, attributes the defeat to Arthur Lee.

the little attention shewn him for them, I could not with hold this attempt to serve him, and to assure you of the esteem and regard with which I have the honor etc.<sup>62</sup>

### TO EDMUND RANDOLPH

Mount Vernon, June 12, 1784.

Dear Sir: At my return from Philada. I met your favor of the 15th. ulto., and since, have received that of the 28th. The rough draft of the conveyance from Colo. Bassett to me, appearing to be just in recital, and, I presume, legal in form; I return it with a wish that the business may be finally accomplished as soon as circumstances will permit. With respect to the Suit of Doctr. Savage, you will be so good as to inform Mr. Fairfax or myself of the determination of his Executor (when he shall have taken it), that we may proceed accordingly. With the sincerest esteem, etc.<sup>62</sup>

### TO RICHARD HENRY LEE

Mount Vernon, June 12, 1784.

Dear Sir: Unsolicited by, and unknown to Mr. Paine, I take the liberty of hinting the services, and distressed (for so I think it may be called) situation of that Gentleman. That his Commonsense, and many of his Crisis's, were well timed, and had a happy affect upon the public mind, none I believe who will recur to the epochas at which they were published, will deny: that his services hither to have passed off unnoticed, is obvious to all; and that he is chagrined and necessitous, I will undertake to aver. Does not common justice then point

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<sup>62</sup>From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

to some compensation? He is not in circumstances to refuse the public bounty. New York, not the least distressed, or most able State in the Union have set the example. He prefers the benevolence of the States individually, to an allowance from Congress, for reasons which are conclusive in his own mind, and such as I think may be approved by others; his views are moderate; a decent independency is, I believe, the height of his ambition; and if you view his services in the American cause in the same important light that I do, I am sure you will have pleasure in obtaining it for him. I am, etc.<sup>83</sup>

\* TO MRS. MARY BRISTON

Mount Vernon, (in Virginia), June 15, 1784.

Madam: Your letter and the duplicate of it, dated the 27th. of last November with the petitions to the Assembly of this State, only came to my hands the 10th. Instant. By the following Post I transmitted them to the Governor, as the Legislature was then sitting at Richmond.

What effect the application may have on that body, is not for me, at this time, to announce; it is to be feared however, as the Lands were involved in the act of general confiscation, previous to the preliminary Articles of Peace, that unless there is something in the case more discriminating than Minority (which I understand is not an exclusion in the Law) you will receive very little redress; but from any thing I know at present of the Issue (if a determination has been had upon the Subject) I can furnish you with no information on which to ground either hope, or fear. If it were the latter, it would afford cause for regret, that Minors, and innocent persons who have not aided or abetted the Contest should have become

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<sup>83</sup>From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

sufferers by it. This however is but too often the case in Civil, as well as other Commotions.

I have not delayed a moment, Madam, to acknowledge, after they came to my hands, the receipt of your letter and petition, and shall have great pleasure in announcing the favorable issue of the latter, if the fact will warrant it. With great respect I have the honor etc.<sup>64</sup>

#### TO I. SAILLY

Mount Vernon, June 20, 1784.

Sir: I have been favor'd with a letter from you dated at Philad. the 4th. inst: I cannot better answer to queries therein, than by sending one of my advertisements; which is not only descriptive of my Lands in the back parts of this Country, but fully explanatory of the terms upon which they are to be obtained. If any of these lands should suit you and such families as you might incline to bring from France and Germany, and the terms are convenient and agreeable, it would be pleasing to me, that I have it in my power to accommodate you and your friends.

I have no other untenanted Lands, than what are mentioned in the enclosed Advertisement, except about 1200 acres within five miles of Alexandria which is altogether in wood, and the soil not of the first quality. I am, etc.<sup>65</sup>

#### \*TO BARBÉ MARBOIS

Mount Vernon, June 20, 1784.

Sir: It was with very great pleasure I received from your own pen, an acct. of the agreeable, and happy connection you

<sup>64</sup>From a photostat of the original in British Museum *Addl. Mss.* 9828.

<sup>65</sup>From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

were about to form with Miss Moore.<sup>66</sup> Though you have given many proofs of your predilection and attachment to this Country, yet this last may be considered not only as a great and tender one, but as the most pleasing and lasting tie of affection. The accomplishments of the lady, with her connections, cannot fail to make it so. On this joyous occasion, accept I pray you, the congratulations of Mrs. Washington and myself, who cannot fail to participate in whatever contributes to your felicity and that of your amiable Concoct; with whom we both have the happiness of an acquaintance, and to whom and the family, we beg leave to present our Compliments. With very great esteem and regard and an earnest desire to approve myself worthy of your friendship, I have the honor etc.<sup>67</sup>

#### TO SAMUEL VAUGHAN<sup>68</sup>

Mount Vernon, June 20, 1784.

Dr. Sir: I have had the honor of your favor of the 1st. instant.<sup>69</sup> It gives me pain that you should think it necessary to apologize for the delay of the marble chimney piece. it gives me much more I confess, that you ever should have thought of depriving another house of it. If it is not too late, I wou'd yet pray you to countermand the order; if it is, I must view the act as a most striking instance of your politeness; and shall consider the fixture of it in my house, more as a monument of your friendship, than as a decoration of my room, (which, for want of workmen, remains in statu quo), and value it accordingly.

I hope this will find you, Mrs. Vaughan and the young Ladies in perfect health and spirits, and much pleased with the

<sup>66</sup>Daughter of Judge William Moore, of "Moore Hall," near Valley Forge, Pa.

<sup>67</sup>From a photostat of the original in the *Paris Archives, Aff. Etrang., Mems. et. Docs., E. U.*, vol. 6.

<sup>68</sup>Of London, England.

<sup>69</sup>Not now found in the *Washington Papers*.

tour you were about to take when you wrote last: the next I hope, will be southwardly, where Mot. Vernon will lay claim to the happiness of seeing you. With great esteem etc.<sup>70</sup>

### TO EDWARD SNICKERS

Mount Vernon, June 25, 1784.

Dear Sir: Upon my return from Philada., I found your favor of the 17th. of May at this place. For your kind intention to make me a visit, I thank you, and shall always be glad to see you when it is convenient. With respect to the other matters mentioned in your letter, all *that* business is now in the hands of the Honble Mr. John Mercer, by a decree of the high Court of Chancery of this State. I have nothing therefore to do with the settlement of accounts, transferences of Lands &c. It is possible, tho' even of this I am not certain, that under the former power of Attorney and decree of the Court, it may be necessary for me to sign the Deeds for such Lotts as were not conveyed at the time of sale; but before I do this, it must be certified to me by Mr. Mercer, that the terms of sale are complied with, and that it is proper for me to do so. this, as I have long declined acting upon the affairs of Colo. Geo: Mercer and his Mortgages, is necessary for my own justification.

<sup>70</sup> From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

On June 24 Washington issued the following advertisement from Mount Vernon, which appeared in the *Pennsylvania Packet and General Advertiser* a month later: "To be Let to the highest Bidder for the Term of Ten Years, on Wednesday the 15th of September next, on the Premises, to be entered upon at Christmas, or sooner if the Crops can be disposed of, The Plantation or Farm on which Mr. Gilbert Simpson, the Co-partner, now lives, lying in the county of Fayette, state of Pennsylvania, commonly called and known by the name of Washington Bottom. . . ." The livestock and mill were described and then followed two paragraphs: "At the time and place aforesaid, will be Let to the highest Bidder, for the Term of Ten Years, a Lot of Land at, and including the Great Meadow, or larger part of it. . . . At Bath in the county of Berkeley, on Tuesday the 7th of September next, will be Let to the highest Bidder, for the Term of seven years, A small Peninsula, or Neck of Land, (formed by a bend of the river) containing 240 acres; near 200 of which is rich low ground. This land is situate on Potowmack river . . . 12 miles above the Springs, or town of Bath. . . ."

Whatever Mr. James Mercer may have promised respecting the payment of his Brother's Debt to you, I know not; but think there must have been a misconception with respect to my doing it; further than saying it was reasonable it shou'd be so and ought to be allowed. All I had to do in the matter, under the decree of the Court, was to sell the Estate, the amount of which was to be subject to a future decree. If £12,500 was sufficient to discharge the several Mortgages upon it, the overplus undoubtedly would be subject to the payment of all just claims against Colo. Mercer, but how this matter really is, I know not. The moment I found I could no longer discharge the duties of the power under which I acted, I wrote to Colo. Tayloe (the other Attorney) to take the business wholly upon himself as I should no longer act, or consider myself responsible for the management of the Trust.

I shall, as soon as I can make it convenient, divide the Lotts I bought at Mr. Mercers sale, into proper sized Tenements, and let them for a term of years to those who will give the highest annual rent, when a day shall be fixed for that purpose. if any persons should be making enquiries of you respecting them, you will be pleased to give them this information. I am, etc.<sup>71</sup>

\*To CLEMENT BIDDLE

Mount Vernon, June 30, 1784.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 10th. Instt. covering an Invoice of Goods shipped by the Betsey Captn. Broadhurst is come safe to hand, the Vessel is also arrived at Alexandria; and I shall send up this day for the things. I wish the mattresses had *all* been among them, as the Season is wasting fast in which they are most useful.

<sup>71</sup>From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

I have perused the Accts. you have delivered in at Sundry times and find the debits and credits to stand thus. If they are not all brought to view you will please to note it, and rectify the mistake

1783		
July 23.	Ticklenburgh & Blankts. pr Bill . . . . .	£204. 13. 0
	Paid Carriage of Do. . . . .	13. 15. —
Octr.	Sundries pr Bills . . . . .	201. 19. 7
	Stays Mrs. L. Washington . . . . .	3. 15. —
	Commisn. 2½ pr Ct. . . . .	10. 7. —
		<hr/>
		£424. 9. 7
Decr. 19.	Bringhurst Wheels &ca. . . . .	15. 2. —
March.	Coffee, Sieves, & Lace . . . . .	14. 12. 6
May.	Chevr. de la Luzerne . . . . .	30. —. —
	Cundries pr. Cap: Hayden . . . . .	44. 7. 4½
June 9.	Goods pr the Betsey. Broadhurst . . . . .	50. 18. 7
		<hr/>
		£579. 10. 0½

1783		
	Cash in Bank Notes . . . . .	£300. —. —
Decr. 11.	Ditto. 400 Dolrs. . . . .	150. —. —

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£450. —. —

1784		
May 5.	Cash sent you in a letter to pay the Cher. de la	
	Luzerne &ca. 250 dollrs. . . . .	93. 15. 0
	Balle due C B. . . . .	35. 15. 0½
		<hr/>
		£579. 10. 0½

Tomorrow, in the hands of some person in Alexandria, I will deposit for the use of Mr. Richardson<sup>72</sup> one hundred and

<sup>72</sup> Thomas Richardson, of Georgetown.



fifty dollars on your Acct. and I pray you to pay Mr. Claypoole<sup>73</sup> agreeably to the contents of my letter to him, wch. is under cover with this, and left open for your perusal; as also the German Printer<sup>74</sup> if he ever inserted the Advertisement respecting my Western Lands, and for the one now enclosed for *him*, to be done in the manner requested of Mr. Claypoole. Whatever these Sums, with the price of the Mattrasses, may over run the deposit I am about to make for Mr. Richardson I will pay to you, or your order, upon demand.

As the Price of the Hinges appear to me to be very high, and I am not in immediate want of them (having been disappointed of Workman) I will postpone for the *present* employing the man Mr. Rakestraw has found. If I should hereafter be under the necessity of giving such a prices I will attend to the direction in your letter; for which I am obliged, both to you and Mr. Rakestraw.

I recollect sometime in the course of last year to have begged you to purchase for me from the redemptioners or Indented (Germans or Irish) a House joiner and Bricklayer. Many I have seen Advertised for Sale in Philadelphia of late; should this happen again I would pray your attention to my former request. It might be well to have them examined by skilful Workmen, for many will call themselves Bricklayers who have only been mortar makers; and others joiners who knew little of the Trade. I would prefer elderly men to very young ones, if there is choice, and their being sent by water (round) to any other conveyance. The Cost and expence of these if you should make a purchase shall be paid as soon as it is made known to Dr. Sir Yr. etc.

<sup>73</sup>David C. Claypoole. No draft, or copy of Washington's letter to him, is now found in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>74</sup>Melchior Steiner(?).

PS. I shall be obliged to you for sending me 70 yds. of gilded Border for papered Rooms (of the kind you shewed me when I was in Philadelphia). That which is most light and Airy I should prefer. I do not know whether it is usual to fasten it on with Brads or Glew; if the former I must beg that as many be sent as will answer the purpose. [H. S. P.]

### TO THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE

Mount Vernon, June 30, 1784.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 15th. did not reach my hands 'till the 27th. I will delay no time in communicating the contents of Mr. Constable's<sup>78</sup> letter to my brother; but as he lives at the distance of near an hundred miles from me, and out of the post road, it may be some time before I can obtain his answer.

This being the case, as it may be some disadvantage to Mr. Constable to be held in suspense, and as the application to you, originated, respecting the manner of carrying on business; I think I can venture to desire that Mr. Constable may not suffer himself to forego another choice on account of my Nephew, or to sustain the least inconvenience from waiting the answer of my brother.

When my brother talked of sending his youngest son to Philada., I advised the application I made to you. I recollected, that either Mr. Vanberkel or Mr. Vaughan had told me that he had fixed one of his sons in your Counting-house. Your extensive correspondence and knowledge in trade I conceived might introduce my Nephew (if, during the course of his apprenticeship, he should display a genius for it, and assiduity,) advantageously into business, and that in so doing your

<sup>78</sup> William Constable, of New York.

own plans might be subserved. How far his engaging with Mr. Constable will open prospects of this nature, is not for me to determine, tho' I could wish his Father may decide for the best, who is a tender parent, has the welfare of his children much at heart, and entertains sanguine hopes of his Son, whose inclination prompts him to move on the mercantile stage.

I am very much obliged by the description<sup>76</sup> of your Ice-house; I will build one this summer or Fall, agreeably thereto, but upon a scale something larger, if workmen can be obtained. Mrs. Washington joins me in affectionate compliments to Mrs. Morris and yourself, whom we should be exceedingly happy to see here, whenever it can be made convenient to you both. With sincere esteem etc.<sup>77</sup>

\*To JOHN AUGUSTINE WASHINGTON

Mount Vernon, June 30, 1784.

Dear Brother: On Sunday last, I received an answer from Mr. Morris to the letter I wrote him whilst you were here. Enclosed is an extract of it with a copy of the letter referred to. As there appears to be [ ]<sup>78</sup> Whether the engaging [ ]<sup>79</sup> Mr. Morris at Second hand will be attended with *all* the advantages I contemplated; whether new York would be equally as agreeable to you, and My Nephew, as Philadelphia, and whether the terms of Mr. Constable are usual and pleasing, is with you to determine, and the sooner you can do this, the better. Had Mr. Morris carried on business in the manner I expected, and as he formerly did, the advantage of entering your Son with him most undoubtedly would have been great, because his Mercantile knowledge and connections,

<sup>76</sup> Morris's letter of June 15, 1784, is in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>77</sup> From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>78</sup> Mutilated.

greatly exceed that of any other person's upon this Continent and are perhaps equal to what can be found in any other Quarter. consequently many doors might open to him, wch. to others would hardly be known, through wch. knowledge and profit might be acquired. Mr. Constable's *Person* is known to me, but to his character I am a stranger, and therefore suppose it to be as Mr. Morris has delineated; the nature, and extent of the commerce he is about to carry on from New York, and how far the knowledge obtained of it, would comport with that kind of Trade which is carried on from this Country where it is to be presumed Corbin would ultimately take his Stand in the Commercial theatre, are matters worthy of consideration. The [ ]<sup>18</sup> in that particular branch which it is most likely for him to move in is not to be preferred? If this is granted, we know that the Trade of this State and Maryland is, and must be, simuler;

There is a Gentleman there, also connected with Mr. Morris in Trade, at Baltimore, who I *know* to be as worthy a man in *every* point of view as any that lives; but whether he is moving upon a large scale or a small one; whether he has an opening that would admit a youth, and upon what terms, I am ignorant. The Gentleman I mean is Lieutt. Colo. Tilghman, who was in my family as an Aid de Camp and Secretary the whole War; and in the Mercantile line many years before it. If he can oblige me, with any kind of convenience to himself, I am sure he would; and if you approve it, and I should, upon enquiry, find he is not in a piddling way (which can scarcely be presumed from his connection with Mr. Morris) I would write to him on the Subject and shall be sure of a candid decision.

My family, at present, are all well but our intermittant months are not yet arrived. I have come to a determination,

<sup>18</sup> Mutilated.

if not prevented by unforeseen events, to make a visit to my Lands on the Western Waters this Fall; and for that purpose, shall leave home the first of September. Many are hinting their wishes, and others making direct applications to be of the party, but as I neither [ ]<sup>18</sup> others, to follow me in these pursuits, nor satisfaction to myself to be in company with those who would soon get tired and embarrass my movements besides rendering them inconvenient. Thus much in general; but if Bushrod's health will permit, and it does not interfere with his studies, or plan of Settlement for the practice of the Law, I would take him with me with pleasure. Only Doctr. Craik besides, will go with me. He would require only a Servant and a Blanket or two, everything else I shall provide unless he should chuse to carry a Gun for his amusement as he would, more than probably see abundance of Game.

Mrs. Washington and all here, join me in best wishes for the health of yourself and my Sister and other connections. I am etc.

TO JOHN RUMNEY<sup>19</sup>

Mount Vernon, July 3, 1784.

General Washington presents his compliments to Mr. Rumney, would esteem it as a particular favor if Mr. Rumney would make the following enquiries as soon as convenient after his arrival in England, and communicate the result of them by the Packet, or any other safe and speedy conveyance to this Country.

1st. The terms upon which the best kind of Whitehaven Flagstone, black and white in equal quantities, could be delivered at the Generals landing or at the Port of Alexanda. by the superficial foot, with the freight and every other incidental

<sup>18</sup> Mutilated.

<sup>19</sup> Of Whitehaven, England.

charge included. The Stone to be  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches thick, or thereabouts, and exactly a foot square each kind (i. e. black and white), to have a well polished face and good joints, so as that a neat floor may be made for the Colonade in the front of his house. Stone thus prepared must be carefully packed, otherwise the face and edges would be damaged; the expence of which should also be taken into the accot.

2d. Upon what terms the common Irish marble, (black and white if to be had, and of the same dimensions) could be had, delivered as above.

3d. As the General has been informed of a very cheap kind of marble, good in quality wch. is to be had at, or in the neighbourhood of Ostend in France, he would thank Mr. Rumney, if it should fall in his way, to institute the same enquiry respecting this also, and give information thereon.

On the report of Mr. Rumney, the General will take his ultimate determination, for which reason he prays him to be precise. The Piazza or colonade, for which this Stone is wanted as for the purpose of a floor, is ninety two feet eight inches, by twelve feet 8 inches, within the border or margin, which surround it. Over and above this quantity if the Flag is cheap, or a cheaper kind of hard stone could be had, he would get as much as would lay the floors of the circular Colonades at the end wings of the House, each of which in length at the outer curve is 38 feet, by 7 feet 2 inches in breadth within the margin.

The General being in want of a House Joiner and Bricklayer, who understand their respective trades perfectly, would thank Mr. Rumney for enquiring into the terms upon which such workmen could be engaged for two or three years (the time of service to commence from their arrival at Alexandria), a less term than *two* years would not answer, because foreigners generally have a seasoning, which with interruptions too frequent,

wasted the greater part of the first year, more to the disadvantage of the hirer, than the hired. Bed board and tools to be found by the Employer, cloaths by the Employed. If two men of the above Trades, and of orderly and quiet deportment could be obtained for twenty five, or even thirty pounds sterling pr. annum each (estimating Dollars at 4/6) the General rather than encounter delay would be obliged to Mr. Rumney for entering into proper articles of agreement on his behalf with them, and for sending them out on the Vessel to this port.<sup>80</sup>

### TO THOMAS RICHARDSON

Mount Vernon, July 5, 1784.

Sir: This day se'night a letter for you covering Bank Notes for 150 Dollars was lodged in the hands of Mr. Watson. Since (that is on Saturday last) I received your favor of the 27th. ulto. enclosing the cost of four Matrasses £49:10.2., a price which exceeds anything I had the most distant idea of; in a word it is an errant imposition of the workman, and therefore I hope Colo. Biddle will enquire into the matter before the accot. is paid. If notwithstanding, other people pay at these rates, I must submit, tho' I could have bought in Alexandria as *large* and as *good* hair Matrasses covered with ticking for £3.10., as the one which I have already received from Philada.; but this I was unacquainted with until I returned from that place, and then it was too late I *thought* to countermand my order. Under this cover you will receive one hundred and twenty dollars more, in Bank Notes for the use of Colo. Biddle, to whom, as I have not received a letter myself from him, I pray you to mention my sentiments respecting the Mattresses.

<sup>80</sup>From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

On July 5 Washington wrote again to Rumney, sympathizing with him on the death of his eldest son who is called "Colo. Rumney." This was, possibly, Col. William Rumney, of the Virginia Militia.

You would oblige me by causing one of the inclosed Advertisements to be affixed in Georgetown, Bladensburg, Fredericktown, Hagerstown, and any other place which you may think proper on the Maryland side of the Potomac. I shall put one of them in the Baltimore paper next week. I am, etc.<sup>81</sup>

### TO JOHN FRANCIS MERCER

Mount Vernon, July 8, 1784.

Sir: Strange as it may seem, it is nevertheless true, that I have not had it in my power to transmit the enclosed Statement of Accots. between your Father's Estate and Brothers, and myself, before this; and now it is possible there may be omissions, for I find my affairs (as far as the little leisure I have will enable me to look into them) in very great disorder, requiring at least a Winter's close application to assort papers and adjust Accounts.

I send these Accounts just as they stand upon my books, no credit I believe is omitted, if I am mistaken however, they may be allowed now, or whenever the three accots. can, or ought to be blended in one; your brother and self may determine this point. I pray you and him to make such a general statement as will ascertain the balance when all the credits are allowed. I know you will do me justice in this, and I want no more; but beg to have a copy of it transmitted to me as soon as convenient. I have not struck a balance on either of the accounts, because of Interest, and stopage of interest at proper epochas, which must come into the final settlements of all.

I can only repeat to you, how convenient it would be to me to receive that balance. I do assure you Sir, that I am distressed for want of money, and know not, as I never was accustomed to it, how to parry a dun. Nevertheless, I would not have you

<sup>81</sup>From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.



adopt measures, or precipitate a Sale which may be injurious to yourself.

Will you be so good as to ask your Brother in what manner I am to obtain Deeds for the two Lotts I bought at Colo. Mercers sale, and which are credited in his Accot.? With esteem and regard, I am, etc.<sup>82</sup>

### TO DOCTOR JAMES CRAIK

Mount Vernon, July 10, 1784.

Dear Doctor: I have come to a resolution (if not prevented by any thing at present unforeseen) to take a trip to the Western Country this Fall, and for that purpose to leave home the first of September. By appointment I am to be at the Warm-Springs the 7th. of that month; and at Gilbert Simpsons the 15th., where, having my partnership accounts, with some of very long standing to settle, and things to provide for the trip to the Kanhawa, I expect to be by the 10th. or 11th., that is four or five days before the 15th.

It is possible, tho' of this I cannot be certain at this time, that I shall, if I find it necessary to lay my Lands off in lotts, make a day or two's delay at each of my tracts upon the Ohio, before I reach the Kanhawa, where my stay will be the longest, and more or less according to circumstances.

I mention all these matters that you may be fully apprized of my plan, and the time it may probably take to accomplish it. If under this information it would suit you to go with me, I should be very glad of your company; no other, except my nephew Bushrod Washington, and that is uncertain, will be of the party; because it can be no amusement to others to follow me in a tour of business, and from one of my tracts of Land to another; (for I am not going to explore the Country, nor am I in

<sup>82</sup> From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

search of Fresh lands, but to secure what I have); nor wou'd it suit me to be embarrassed by the plans, movements or whims of others, or even to have my own made unwieldy; for this I shall continue to decline all overtures which may be made to accompany me. Your business and mine lays in the same part of the country and are of a similar nature; the only difference between them is, that mine may be longer in the execution.

If you go, you will have occasion to take nothing from hence, but a servant to look after your horses, and such bedding as you may think proper at make use of. I will carry a Marquee, some camp utensils, and a few Stores. A Boat, or some other kind of vessel will be provided for the voyage down the river, either to my place on the Yohoghaney or Fort Pitt, measures for this purpose having been already taken. A few medicines, and hooks and lines you may probably want. My Complimts. and best wishes in which Mrs. Washington joins, are offered to Mrs. Craik and your family, and I am, with sincere esteem etc.<sup>83</sup>

\*TO REVEREND LEE MASSEY<sup>84</sup>

Mount Vernon, July 10, 1784.

Dear Sir: I have been favored with your letter of June 30th.<sup>85</sup> I thank you for the friendly style of it, and pray you to be assured that I shall, at all times, be glad to see you at Mount Vernon.

Business, and old concerns of the War, with which I have *now* nothing to do, are still pressed upon me. This, and Company, has left me little liezure hitherto to look into matters which more immediately relate to myself. but finding it necessary, I mean to devote my forenoons to business, while I give

<sup>83</sup> From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>84</sup> Of Pohick Church, Va.

<sup>85</sup> Dated from Occoquan, Va.

the after part of the day to my friends, 'till I can (if that should ever be) bring my Affairs into order again. With this indulgence from my friends, their visits can never be unseasonable, and none will be received with more pleasure than those of Mr. Massey. With great esteem etc.<sup>66</sup>

### TO GILBERT SIMPSON

Mount Vernon, July 10, 1784.

Mr. Simpson: This letter and the enclosed Advertisements will be delivered to you, I expect, by Mr. George McCormick. The like advertisements are sent to many other parts, and will appear in the Philada., Baltimore and Alexandria News-papers, that the most public notice thereof may be given. I have also sent one to Fort Pitt. The six which are sent you, may be disposed of at such places over the mountains as you shall think best.

My part of the Stock (except Negroes, which may be necessary to finish the crop) will certainly be disposed of. Your half may also be sold, and you to purchase in what you like on your own account; or set apart by a fair and equal division before the sale, as may be agreed upon when I come up. The Land and Mill will also be let in the manner described;<sup>67</sup> for I cannot in justice to myself, any longer submit to such management, waste of property, and losses, as I have hitherto sustained by my partnership with you.

I shall bring up all my acco'ts and memorandums in order to have a final settlement, and desire you will collect every paper and thing which can serve to put matters in a fair point of view; for tho' I do not expect to be compensated for my losses, nor

<sup>66</sup> From a photograph of the original, owned, in 1930, by Mrs. L. M. Welsh, of Kansas City, Mo. It was a gift of Prof. Albert Bushnell Hart, of Cambridge, Mass.

<sup>67</sup> The terms were probably the same as those given in the advertisement in the *Pennsylvania Packet and General Advertiser* of July 29, 1784, signed by G. Washington, and dated Mount Vernon, June 24, 1784, respecting a plantation, mill, etc., in Fayette County, Pa. (See last note on page 426, *ante*.)

mean to be rigid in my settlement, yet common sense, reason and justice, all require that I should have a satisfactory account rendered of my property which has been entrusted to your care, in full confidence of getting something for ten or twelve years use of it.

The letter, which will accompany this, for the commanding Officer of Fort Pitt, I beg you to send by some person who will be pointed in delivering it to him: he is desir'd to lodge an answer at your house by the 10th., which you will keep 'till I arrive. I have wrote to know what things I can be provided with at Fort Pitt for a trip down the Ohio, that I may be enabled to determine the moment I get to your house, whether to build a Boat and hire hands or not. Let the materials, as I mentioned to you when here, for building a Boat be provided notwithstanding; because if they are not wanted, they can readily be disposed of; and if they are, it will facilitate my passage exceedingly. You may also, without making an absolute purchase of anything, know where and upon what terms, provision for man and horse; and such other articles, Liquor, Butter, Cheese, Saltmeat, Salt &c. can be had, that no delay may take place, in these enquiries after I get out, if they should be found necessary. I would wish to know also if a good Hunter and Waterman could be had, and upon what terms: and if you should see Mr. Hite who formerly assisted Colonel Crawford in his Surveys of the land I hold on the Ohio and Kanhawa, ask him if it would suit him to go down the river with me, in case I should find it necessary to take a surveyor, and upon what terms by the day or month; as I do not know what, or whether I shall have anything for him to do, more than to shew me the land, 'till I get upon it, or know what prospect there is of settling it. I am, etc.<sup>88</sup>

<sup>88</sup>From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

TO THE COMMANDING OFFICER AT FORT PITT<sup>89</sup>

Mount Vernon, July 10, 1784.

Sir: If nothing, unforeseen at present, happens to prevent it, I propose to be at my plantation on Yohoghaney the 10th. of September, which with my Mill and other matters will be disposed of the 15th. as you may see by the enclosed Advertisements, from thence I have thoughts of visiting my Lands on the Great Kanhawa, and on the Ohio between the two Kanhawas, if I can do it conveniently, and obtain the means for a water conveyance.

Let me request the favor of you therefore Sir, to inform me by a line to be left at my Plantation in the care of Mr. Gilbert Simpson, whether there are any public Boats at the post under your command, which might answer my purpose; if there are not, whether one or more could be hired from the Inhabitants in the vicinity of it, and at what price by the day, with hands to navigate her, as also without hands. whether you could spare me from the Garrison three or four trusty Soldiers (a corporal one of them) for the trip, and whether provision for man and horse could be purchased at Fort Pitt, with liquor for such a jaunt, and on what terms. 'Tis probable I may want water transportation &c. for ten Horses.<sup>90</sup>

I persuade myself you will excuse the trouble this application will occasion you, and think there is no impropriety in my request respecting the Boat and Soldiers; if I had thought there was, I pledge myself to you I should not have made it. I am desirous of meeting your answer at Mr. Simpsons to *all* these queries by the 10th., because my ultimate measures must be

<sup>89</sup> Capt. David Lockett, of the Maryland battalion. He served to June, 1785.

<sup>90</sup> When Washington reached Fort Pitt, he met with reports of Indian temper and uprising that made it inadvisable to go down the Ohio. That part of his trip was abandoned, and he traveled on horseback to Rockingham County, Va., and returned through Culpeper, Prince William, and Colchester to Mount Vernon.

decided on at that place the moment I arrive there, and no time ought to be lost in having recourse to other measures if I cannot be supplied with you. I am, etc.<sup>91</sup>

TO EDMUND RANDOLPH

Mount Vernon, July 10, 1784.

Dear Sir: The last post brought me your favor of the 3d., and the post preceeding, that of the 27th. ulto. My particular thanks are due for the attention you have paid to the renewal of my Patents, your Fees on this, and the other business you have had the management of for me, I would gladly pay, if you will please to let me know the amount. Whether it is to Mr. Mercer (who by order of Court, has the property of his Brother George in his hands) or to me, you look for your fee in the suit depending between Gravat and others in the high Court of Chancery, I know not; if the latter, please to advise me that I may take measures to obtain the money.

In looking over some of my papers the other day, I found a Memom. of a prize (half an acre) which I drew in Colo. Byrds lottery, in the Town of Richmond, the number of the ticket is 4965. and that of the Lott, or prize 265. this is all I got for twenty tickets on my own Accot. The same Memodm. informs me, that in partnership with Peyton Randolph (your uncle), John Wayles, George Wythe, Richard Randolph, Lewis Burwell, William Fitzhugh (Chatham), Thompson Mason, Nathl. Harrison Jur. and Richd. Kidder Mead Esqrs. (ten in all), I have, or ought to have a joint interest in the following prizes, the produce of an hundred Tickets which were purchased amongst us. Vizt. No. 3181—half an acre—No. 270. 3186—Do Do 138. 3193—100 Acres 823. 5325—half an Acre 237. 5517—100 Acres 751. 5519—half an Acre 257.

<sup>91</sup>From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

If it would not be inconvenient to you, it would oblige me to let me know (if you can) what is become of this property; and of what value it is, especially the Lott No. 265 which I hold in my own right; for I faintly recollect to have heard that the joint stock was disposed of to no great advantage for the company for me, I am sure it was not, as I have never received an iota on account of these prizes. With very great esteem and regard, I am, etc.<sup>92</sup>

#### MEMORANDUM GIVEN TO GEORGE McCORMICK

July 12, 1784.

Genl. Washington requests Mr. McCormick to set up the Advertisements herewith enclosed at the following places. Leesburgh, Shepherdstown, Hagerstown, Martinsburg, Warm springs, and the Oldtown, or thereabouts. The above to be of those which have the writing in the Margin. The others to be set up along the road above the Oldtown, and at such other places over the Mountains as Mr. McCormick may think best; letting Mr. Simpson know the places, that he may not send those which are inclosed to him, to the same.

The letter to the Commanding officer at Fort Pitt to be sent by Mr. McCormick or Simpson as they may agree, it ought to go safe and soon.

Mr. McCormick will please to inform those persons, or the leaders of them, who are settled upon the Generals Land on Millers run, that he, McCork., has seen and read his Deed for it, that the said Deed bears date the 5th. day of July 1774, and the Survey the 23d. of March 1771, that this Land was granted in virtue of the Kings proclamation in Octor. 1763, and is part of 3000 acres bought of Capt. Posey (an officer) who was

<sup>92</sup>From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

entitled to so much under that Proclamation, as is recited in the Deed; that the agreement between the States of Virginia and Pennsylvania secures this right to the General, who did, at their first settling upon the land, and at sundry times since, which is easy to be proved, give them notice that it was his, and forewarned them of the consequences of presevering in an error; and lastly, it may be neighbourly and friendly in Mr. McCormick to advise them, if they have a mind to avoid all the expence, and all the disagreeable consequences which may result from the prosecution of his right to the highest Court it can finally be determined in; it might be well for them to think seriously of an accommodation, either by removing, or becoming Tenants; and that this is not to be delayed beyond the time the Genl. has appointed to rent his Mill &c.

If Mr. McCormick shou'd see Mr. Hite who assisted Colo. Crawford in surveying the Generals Lands on the Ohio and Gt. Kanhawa, he would be obliged to him for asking Mr. Lite whether, in case the General shou'd find it necessary when he gets to Mr. Simpson's, to take a Surveyor down with him, it would suit him to go; and upon what terms, by the day or month. The General does not [wish] Mr. Hite engaged actually, because he does not, at this time certainly know whether he shall want a Surveyor or not.<sup>92</sup>

#### TO TENCH TILGHMAN

Mount Vernon, July 14,<sup>94</sup> 1784.

Dear Sir: I nephew of mine<sup>95</sup> Brother to the young gentleman who studied Law under Mr. Wilson, is inclined to enter into a Mercantile walk of life, and his Father is desirous he

<sup>92</sup>From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>94</sup>A sales catalogue dates this letter July 4.

<sup>95</sup>Corbin Washington.



should do so. He has just compleated a regular Education, is about twenty years of age, Sober and serious, sensible, and I am *told*, remarkably prudent and assiduous in the completion of whatever he takes in hand. This is the character he bears, personally, I know little of him.

I have expressed a wish to his Father that he might be placed under your care, and it is very pleasing to him, let me ask then My Dr. Sir, if it would be convenient for you to take him into your counting House, and immediately under your eye. If I had not conceived, from the character he bears, that he would do you no discredit, but may, when he is qualified, subserve your views in Trade, while he is promoting his own, I do assure you that I am among the last men in the world, who would propose the measure. If you are inclined to receive him, be so good as to let me know on what terms, and the requisites to be complied with on his part. Mrs. Washington joins very cordially in compliments of congratulation to you and Mrs. Tilghman on the encrease of your family. With the usual esteem etc.<sup>96</sup>

#### \*TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA

Virginia, July 15, 1784.

Gentlemen: With feelings which are more easy to be conceived than expressed, I meet, and reciprocate the congratulations of the Representatives of this Commonwealth, on the final establishment of peace.<sup>97</sup>

<sup>96</sup> From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>97</sup> The address, dated June 24, from the General Assembly, to which this is the answer, is in the *Washington Papers*. (See Washington's letter to Dr. David Stuart, June 11, 1784, *ante*.)

On June 22 the House of Delegates of Virginia had resolved that the Executive procure a marble statue of General Washington "to be of the finest Marble and best Workmanship." The Virginia Senate concurred in this June 24. This resolve is in the *Washington Papers*. The statute, by Houdon, is in the State capitol at Richmond.

Nothing can add more to the pleasure which arises from a conscientious discharge of public trust, than the approbation of one's Country. To have been, under a vicissitude of fortune, amidst the difficult and trying scenes of an arduous conflict, so happy as to meet this, is in my mind, to have attained the highest honor, and the consideration of it, in my present peaceful retirement will heighten all my domestic enjoyments, and constitute my greatest felicity.

I should have been truly wanting in duty, and must have frustrated the great and important object for which we resorted to Arms, if seduced by a temporary regard of fame I had suffered the paltry love of it to have interfered with my Country's welfare, the interest of which was the only inducement which carried me to the field, or<sup>88</sup> to have suffered the rights of civil authority, though but for a moment, to be violated and infringed by a power meant originally to rescue and confirm.

For those rewards and blessings which you have invoked for me in this world, and for the fruition of that happiness which you pray for in the one which is to come, you have<sup>89</sup> all my thanks, and all my gratitude. I wish I could insure them to you, and the State you represent, an hundred fold.

#### TO ROBERT TOWNSEND HOOE

Mount Vernon, July 18, 1784.

Sir: Hearing that you have a Vessel bound to some port in Spain, I am induced to ask if it is safe and practicable to bring from thence a good Jack ass, to breed from. The late Don Juan de Miralles, resident from the Court of Spain at Philadelphia, promised to procure one for me; but in his death I met a disap-

<sup>88</sup>Dr. David Stuart has here crossed off the clause "to have suffered" and substituted the word "permitted."

<sup>89</sup>Doctor Stuart here inserted the word "Gentlemen."

pointment. Another Gentleman of his Nation, not long since, has also given me a promise, but it is not yet fulfilled, and as I am convinced that a good Jack would be a public benefit to this part of the Country, as well as private convenience to myself, I am desirous of having more strings than one to my bow. I do not mean however to involve any person, or thing, in difficulty, to accomplish this end.

Under this express declaration if you or your partner Mr. Harrison, could openly, fairly and upon easy terms, serve me, I should acknowledge the favor. An ordinary Jack I do not desire; I will describe therefore such an one as I must have, if I get any. He must be at least fifteen hands high; well formed; in his prime; and one whose abilities for getting Colts can be ensured; for I have been informed, that except those which are designed to breed from; and more especially such as are suffered to be exported; they very frequently have their generative parts so injured by squeezing, as to render them as unfit for the purpose of begetting Colts, as castration would, when from a superficial view no imperfection appears. Whether the latter is founded in truth, or mere report, I do not vouch for; but as I would have a good Jack or none, I am induced to mention the circumstances. I am, etc.<sup>1</sup>

#### TO REVEREND WALTER MAGOWAN

July 20, 1784.

D. Sir: Not knowing of whom the Vestry of Pecawaxon is composed, or that I have the honor of being acquainted with a single member of it; there would be I conceive, an impropriety in my addressing them on the subject of your application, otherwise I would with great pleasure join my recommendations

<sup>1</sup>From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

of you to those of Majr. Jenifer.<sup>2</sup> If my best wishes, however, can contribute to the success of your present movement, you have them very sincerely: or if my signifying, that from a long acquaintance with you, I can bear testimony to the truth of what Majr. Jenifer has advanced in your behalf, will be of any avail, I would do it with pleasure. In the meanwhile such evidence thereof as this letter affords, you are at free liberty to make use of, because I have full conviction in my own breast, that if the choice of the vestry should light on you, you would make the Parish happy. With great truth and regard, I am, etc.<sup>3</sup>

### TO WILLIAM SKILLING

Mount Vernon, July 22, 1784.

Wm. Skilling: I have just received your letter of the      , and this answer will be lodged on the road by Colo. Bassett. I cannot afford to give the wages you ask, nor can I find out the meaning of Mr. Randolphs offering you Sterlg. money, as it is altogether unusual, and little understood by workmen, and subject to misunderstanding and disputes.

Colo. Bassett is sure there must be a mistake in the case, for that you only asked him thirty pounds and two pr. of Shoes per annn., and upon informing you that he stood in no need of your services, you desired him to mention the matter to others. In consequence, he spoke to Colo. Richr. Randolph, and mentioned your terms; upon which he, (Colo. Randolph) wrote to you. How it should happen therefore that he should put in Sterling, he cannot conceive.

I am willing to allow you £30 Curry. estimating Dollars at 6/, (and other specie in proportion), and two pr. of Shoes pr.

<sup>2</sup>Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer(?).

<sup>3</sup>From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

Ann: If you incline to take it, you may come as soon as it is convenient; but whether you do, or do not incline to take it, write me word immediately by the post, the Stage, or some safe hand, that I may know whether to look out elsewhere or not.

You know perfectly what kind of living you will meet with here, and the advantages. I shall not therefore, enumerate them: nor shall I at this time point out the sort of work you will be employ'd in. It may be to ditch, to Garden, to level and remove Earth, to work alone, or with several others, and in the last case, to keep them closely employ'd as well as yourself. The work however will either be at the home house, or at the plantation adjoining; most probably the former. I again repeat the necessity there is for your letting me hear from you that I may know whether to look out elsewhere or not. I am, etc.<sup>4</sup>

### TO GOVERNOR BENJAMIN HARRISON

Mount Vernon, July 22, 1784.

My Dr. Sir: I have had the honor to receive your favor of the 2d. What you have asked of the Secretary at War, if obtained, is all I conceive essential to illucidate the Accounts of the old and present impositions on the public; the rolls in the pay office might serve as checks to those of the Masters; but where all these are to be met with, I know not, as the Troops of Virginia were, by order of Congress, considered as a component part of the Southern army, and part of the time mentioned in your letter to the Secretary at War, were not under my direction. I do not however consider these as very necessary, as they and the Muster rolls (which for the purpose you want them must be sufficiently correct,) only act as checks upon

<sup>4</sup>From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

each other. If however, in this, or any thing else, I can be of service to you, it will give me much pleasure to comply with your wishes.

It was my full intention to have made you a visit so soon as the Summers heat should be over; but the situation of my affairs, and attempts to take from me, the property I have in the back Country are such, that I am oblig'd to visit the latter in September, or suffer it, after all the expence I have been put to, to pass into other hands without compensation. I am, etc.<sup>5</sup>

### TO WAKELIN WELCH

Mount Vernon, July 27, 1784.

Sir: Your letter of the 26th. of Jany., and duplicate thereof, both coming by the way of James river, were long getting to hand.

I return the Power of Attorney signed before the first Master and Mariners I could find, bound for the Port of London: and trust that no further difficulty will arise to prevent your drawing the money, which had been deposited in the Bank,<sup>6</sup> out of the same and placing it to my credit upon the most advantageous terms.

I have not an ounce of Tobacco growing this year, whether I shall return to that species of Agriculture again, or not, will depend altogether upon the price that article is most likely to bear from the general State of the trade, of which, you who understand the matter better than I do, can best determine; and would do me a favor to signify for my information.

<sup>5</sup>From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

On July 23 Washington wrote a short note to Governor Harrison and also to William Fitzhugh, introducing a Mr. Prager, a European merchant. Copies of these notes are in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>6</sup>Bank of England.

Not having, that I recollect, received the particular of my Accot. currt. with your House; I should be glad to have it forwarded to me, together with that of the late Mr. Custis's, as soon as convenient. I am, etc.<sup>7</sup>

\* To CLEMENT BIDDLE

Mount Vernon, July 28, 1784.

Dear Sir: The mulatto fellow William,<sup>8</sup> who has been with me all the War is attached (married he says) to one of his own colour a free woman, who, during the War was also of my family. She has been in an infirm state of health for sometime, and I had conceived that the connection between them had ceased, but I am mistaken; they are both applying to me to get her here, and tho' I never wished to see her more yet I cannot refuse his request (if it can be complied with on reasonable terms) as he has lived with me so long and followed my fortunes through the War with fidelity.

After promising thus much, I have to beg the favor of you to procure her a passage to Alexandria either by Sea, by the passage Boats (if any there be) from the head of Elk, or in the Stage as you shall think cheapest and best, and circumstances may require. She is called Margaret Thomas als. Lee (the name which he has assumed) and lives at Isaac and Hannah Sills, black people who frequently employ themselves in Cooking for families in the City of Phila. I am etc.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>7</sup>From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>8</sup>William Lee (called "Billy"), the servant said to have been captured with the letters which the British published in 1776; known as the "Spurious Letters of Washington."

<sup>9</sup>From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by Judge E. A. Armstrong, of Princeton, N. J.

On July 30 Washington gave a brief certificate of service to a Lieutenant Brown, a copy of which is in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

## TO CHARLES WASHINGTON

Mount Vernon, August 2, 1784.

Dear Brother: The enclosed came to my hands from Philadelphia last night. I am sorry to find by George's letter to me, that he had not received the benefit from the Sea Air he expected, but as his passage was not good and he in a manner but just landed, no Judgment at the time he wrote could be well formed of the effect the voyage would have upon his complaint; as he writes you himself there can be no doubt of his giving you an acc't of his health and present intentions, I shall add nothing further therefore on this subject.

I still hold to my resolution of setting off the first of September for the Western County, and if I am not obliged (in business) to go by the way of Fredericks Town in Maryland to the Springs, I shall most assuredly spend a night at [Harewood] with you. Mrs. Washington joins me in best wishes for you, my sister and the family, and I am, etc.<sup>10</sup>

## \* TO TENCH TILGHMAN

Mount Vernon, Aug. 4, 1784.

Dear Sir: The House Joiner<sup>11</sup> you bought for me has arrived. I like his age, professions, and appearance very well and am obliged to you for procuring him. His Indentures may be sent at any time.<sup>12</sup> As the Season for working with Mortar will soon be over, and that of intermittants is now approaching, I pray you unless a *very good* Bricklayer should offer, not to purchase one for me after the 15th. of this Month.

<sup>10</sup> The text is from a sales catalogue of 1909-10.

<sup>11</sup> By the name of Branning.

<sup>12</sup> His indenture was for 3 years and cost £ 22: 10: 0.



The Fan<sup>13</sup> from Mr. Thos. Peters is also arrived, for which be so good as to thank him in my behalf. The handle of it is lost. Whether it did not get on board the Packet, was not delivered by the Master of it, or mislaid at Colo. Fitzgeralds is unknown as the Vessel had returned before I sent up and enquiry could be made.

Enclosed are Bank Notes for Ninety dollars, with which please to pay yourself and apply the overplus towards the payment for the Fan had of Mr. Peters. As the bill of cost did not accompany it, and my recollection of the price (if I ever heard it) has failed me, I do not know whether this Sum is sufficient for both purposes; if not the balle. shall be paid as soon as it is made known to Dr. Sir Yr. etc.

[H. S. P.]

### To JOHN ARISS<sup>14</sup>

Mount Vernon, August 8, 1784.

Sir: In answer to your letter of the 5th., I have to inform you that I have no untenanted Lands in the Counties of Berkley or Frederick, except two lotts Nos. 5 and 6, the first containing 346½ acres, and the 2d. 224½ in the latter, which I bought at the Sale of Colo. George Mercer's Estate, in the year 1774, and for which I have had many persons applying to become Tenants. My intention was, after I had reviewed and laid these Lotts off into proper sized Tenements, to have appointed a day on the premises to let them.

If you choose to examine these Lots, and will, if either of them shou'd suit you, offer a good rent, it may (if I should not

<sup>13</sup> For cleaning wheat.

On August 4 Washington wrote to Clement Biddle that Tilghman had obtained a house joiner for him. Biddle, therefore, was to "decline purchasing either the Joiner or Bricklayer." A copy of this letter is in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>14</sup> Of Berkeley County, Va.

upon recollection find myself under a promise to give notice of the letting of them) supercede the necessity of this measure. I expect to be at my Brother's, on my way to the Berkeley Springs, the 2d. of next month (at night), where you may deposit a letter, which shall receive an answer from thence, to any proposals you may incline to make.

With respect to Mr. Whiting,<sup>18</sup> I know nothing of his intentions, unless they be, as it shou'd seem, to work my Lands as long as he will be permitted without paying rent. If the non-performance of Covenants, on the part of the Tenant, can be construed into a forfeiture of his Lease, Mr. Whiting I persuade myself will have candor enough to confess that his comes under this predicament. I am, etc.<sup>19</sup>

#### TO TENCH TILGHMAN

Mount Vernon, August 11, 1784.

Dr. Sir: I shall essay the finishing of my green house this fall, but find that neither myself, nor any person about me is so well skilled in the internal construction as to proceed without a probability at least of running into errors.

Shall I for this reason, ask the favor of you to give me a short description of the Green-house at Mrs. Carrolls? I am persuaded, now that I planned mine upon too contracted a scale. My house is (of Brick) 40 feet by 24, in the outer dimensions, and half the width disposed of for two rooms, back of the part designed for the green house; leaving the latter in the clear not more than about 37 by 10. As there is no cover on the walls yet, I can raise them to any height, the information I wish to obtain is,

<sup>18</sup> Henry Whiting.

<sup>19</sup> From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

The dimensions of Mrs. Carroll's Green-house. what kind of a floor is to it. how high from that floor to the bottom of the window frame, what height the windows are from bottom to top, how high from the top to the ceiling of the house, whether the ceiling is flat, or of what kind. whether the heat is conveyed by flues, and a grate. whether those flues run all round the House, the size of them without, and in the clear. Whether they join the wall, or are separate and distinct from it, if the latter, how far they are apart, with any other suggestions you may conceive necessary.

I should be glad to hear from you soon on this subject, as I shall leave home on or before the first of next month, and wish to give particular directions to the workmen before I go.<sup>17</sup> I am, etc.<sup>18</sup>

TO JACOB READ<sup>19</sup>

Mount Vernon, August 11, 1784.

Dear Sir I return the letter you were so obliging as to send me, and thank you for the perusal of it. No copy has been taken; nor will any part of its contents transpire from me.

Altho' Mr. Ls.<sup>20</sup> informant may have the means of acquiring knowledge, and tho' it is undoubted that the British Cabinet wish to recover the United States to a dependence on that Government; yet I can scarce think they ever expect to see it realized, or that they have any plan in contemplation to try to effect it; unless *our* want of wisdom, and perseverance in error, should in their judgment render the attempt certain. The affairs of

<sup>17</sup> Tilghman answered from Baltimore (August 18). His letter, with a plan and full description of Mrs. Carroll's greenhouse, is in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>18</sup> From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>19</sup> Delegate to the Continental Congress from South Carolina.

<sup>20</sup> Arthur Lee(?).

Ireland, if our accots. from thence are to be relied on, are in too turbulent a state to suffer G. B. to enter very soon into another quarrel with America, even if her finances were on a more respectable footing than I believe them to be; and her prospect of success must diminish as our population encreases, and the governments become more consistent; without the last of which, indeed, any thing may be apprehended. It is however, as necessary for the Sovereign in Council, as it is for the general in the field, not to despise information; but to hear all, compare all, combine them with other circumstances and take measures accordingly. Nothing, I confess, would sooner induce me to give credit to a hostile intention on the part of G. B., than their continuing (without the shadow of reason, for I really see none) to withhold the Western Posts, on the American side the line, from us, and sending, as the Gazettes say is their intention, Sir Guy Carlton over as Vice roy, to their possessions in America, which are to undergo a new organization.

The opinion I have here given, you will readily perceive is founded upon the ideas I entertain of the temper of Ireland, the imbecility of G. B. and her internal divisions; for with pain I add, that I think our affairs are under wretched management, and that *our* conduct, if G. B. was in circumstances to take advantage of it, would bid her hope *every thing*, while other powers might expect *little* from the wisdom or exertion of these States.

I thank you for your proffered services to the Eastward. I have nothing to trouble you with, but wishing you may find the air of Rhode Island salubrious and beneficial to your Mother, I have the honor etc.<sup>21</sup>

<sup>21</sup> From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

## TO CHEVALIER DE LA LUZERNE

Mount Vernon, August 20, 1784.

Sir: The letter your Excellency did me the honor to write in the moment of your departure from this Country, conferred the highest honor upon me, and is not more flattering to my vanity, than it is productive of my gratitude.

I shall ever reflect with pleasure Sir, on the readiness with which your communications to me have been made; and the dispatch and ability with which you have conducted business in the line to which I was called. And what will render these reflections more precious, is that you have accompanied them with marks of friendship and confidence which were as pleasing as they are honorable.

When I add Sir, that you have impressed me with sentiments of sincere respect and attachment, I do not speak the language of my own heart only; it is the universal voice, and your departure will always be regretted. The only consolation left us is, that you are gone to receive the smile and approbation of a Prince, who knows full well how to distinguish, and how to reward merit.

It would give me great pleasure to make you a visit in France, to pay my respectful homage to a Sovereign to whom America is so much indebted, and to renew the friendships which I have had the honor to contract with so many respectable characters of your Nation. but I despair; my fortune has been injured by the war, and my private concerns are so much deranged, as to require more time to recover them than comports with the years of a man who is sliding down the stream of life as fast as I am. But whether I am in this or that Country, or wheresoever

I may be, nothing will lessen the respect, or shake the attachment with which I have the honor to be Dr. Sir Yrs. etc.<sup>22</sup>

\*TO COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU

Mount Vernon, Aug. 20, 1784.

My dear Count: I thank you for your favor of the 16th. of June by the Marquis de la Fayette, who arrived here three days ago; and for your other letter of the 4th. of May which, also came safe. permit me to offer you my sincere congratulations on your appointment to the Government of Picardy. It is an honorable testimony of the approving smiles of your Prince, and a just reward for your Services and merit. Should fortune ever put it in my power to come to France, your being at Calais would be an irresistible inducement for me to make it a visit.

My letters from Philadelphia (public and private) would give you a full accot. of every matter and thing respecting the Society of the Cincinnati, and upon what footing all claims to the order were, thereafter, to be decided; to these referring, I shall save you the trouble of reading a repetition. Considering how recently the K—g of Sw—d—n has changed the form of the Constitution of that Country, it is not much to be wondered at that his *fears* should get the better of his *liberality* at any thing which might have the semblance of republicanism; but considering further how few of his Nation had, or could have, a right to the Order, I think he might have suffered his complaisance to have superceded his apprehensions.<sup>23</sup>

I will not trouble you with a long letter at this time, because I have nothing worthy of communication. Mrs. Washington who is always pleased with your remembrance of her, and glad

<sup>22</sup> From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>23</sup> The king of Sweden had refused to permit his subjects, who were officers in the French Army, to wear the Society of the Cincinnati eagle.

to hear of your welfare, prays you to accept her Compliments and best wishes; mine are always sincere, and offered (tho' unknown) to Madame Rochambeau, the Viscount your Son, and any of the Officers of the Army you commanded in America who may be with you, and with whom I have the honor of an Acquaintance. With great esteem etc.<sup>24</sup>

### TO JAMES CRANE

Mount Vernon, August 20, 1784.

Sir: The enclosed letter<sup>25</sup> which is left open for your perusal, will give you my sentiments respecting the sale of the widow Bartlett's Lease, please to seal, before you send or deliver it. I shall have no objection to a transfer of the purchaser, if likely to fulfill the objects I had in view, and the conditions of the Lease are complied with. I am etc.<sup>26</sup>

### TO CHEVALIER DE CHASTELLUX

Mount Vernon, August 20, 1784.

My Dr. Sir: The Marqs. de la Fayette, who I had been long looking for with the eyes of friendship and impatience, arrived here on Tuesday last,<sup>27</sup> and presented me your favor of the 16th. of June. I thank you My Dr. Sir, for every testimony of your recollection of me, and every fresh assurance you give me of the continuation of your friendship is pleasing: it serves (to borrow an Indian phrase) to brighten the chain, and to convince

<sup>24</sup> From the *Rochambeau Papers* in the Library of Congress.

<sup>25</sup> Of August 20, to Dolphin Drew, of Berkeley County: "I wou'd next ask if you mean to build and reside on the Land you express a wish to purchase from the widow Bartlett? If you do, I should be happy in having you for a tenant, but if you intend it only for a quarter, under the management of an overseer, I must withhold my consent." A copy of this letter is in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>26</sup> From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>27</sup> August 17.

me that you will not suffer moth or rust to injure or impair it. We talk of you often, and tho' we wish in vain to have you of our party, we do not fail to drink your health at Dinner every day. I will not give up the hope of seeing you at Mount Vernon, before I quit the stage of human action, the idea wou'd be too painful. I must indulge a contrary one.

As I have no communications at this time that are worthy of *your* attention, and a house full of company to claim *mine*; I shall, as the Ship by which I write has Spread her canvas wings, only add new assurances of what I hope you were before perfectly convinced, that I am with the greatest esteem etc.<sup>28</sup>

#### TO LOUIS LE BÈQUE DU PORTAIL

Mount Vernon, August 20, 1784.

Dear Sir: The Marqs. de la Fayette who arrived at this place on tuesday last, gave me the pleasure of receiving your letter dated at Paris the 16th. of June, and of learning from it, that you had not relinquished the idea of visiting a Country, on whose theatre you have acted a conspicuous part. Be assured Sir, that at whatever time, and under whatever circumstances this may happen, I shall be among the first to give you a welcome reception.

Several circumstances conspired to prevent my making the tour with the Chevr. de la Luzerne, to the Great Cataract of Niagara; but that which had most weight with me, indeed which was an insurmountable objection, the British (without even the colour of pretence), holding that, and the intermediate Post of Oswego. I did not choose to make the trip upon cutesy; nor to place myself in a situation where either a denial or any indignity might be offered in the prosecution of it.

<sup>28</sup> From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.



I pray you to offer my best wishes to any of the Gentlemen of your Corps with whom I have the pleasure of an acquaintance, when you see them. Mrs. Washington thanks you for your kind remembrance of her, and begs you to accept her compliments. I am, etc.<sup>29</sup>

### TO HUGH HUGHES

Mount Vernon, August 22, 1784.

Sir: I have received your letter of the 31st. ulto. from Philada. My memory is not charged with the particulars of the Verbal Order<sup>30</sup> which you say was delivered to you thro' Colo. Joseph Trumbull on the 27th. of Augt. 1776. "for impressing all the Sloops, boats and water craft from Spyghten duyvel in the Hudson, to Hellgate on the sound", I recollect full well that it was a day which required the greatest exertion, particularly in the Quarter Master's Department, to accomplish the retreat which was intended, under cover of the succeeding night; and that no delay or ceremony could be admitted in the execution of the plan. I have no doubt therefore of your having received orders to the effect and the extent you have mentioned; and you are at liberty to adduce this letter in testimony thereof. It will I presume, supply the place of a more formal certificate, and is more consonant with my recollection of the transactions of that day.

It is with pleasure I add that your conduct in the Quarter Master's line, as far as it came under my view, or to my knowledge, was marked with activity, zeal and intelligence, and accordingly met my approbation. With grateful thanks for your good wishes, I am, etc.<sup>30</sup>

<sup>29</sup> From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>30</sup> Probably the order was given by Maj. Gen William Heath.

On August 22 Washington issued a certificate of service to Lieut. Col. Francis Mentges, the autograph of which is in the Bostonian Society, which kindly furnished a photograph of same.

## TO REVEREND WILLIAM SMITH

Mount Vernon, August 25, 1784.

revd. Sir: Your letter of the 10th. from Vienna,<sup>31</sup> was more than ten days on its passage to me. It found me with company, and busily preparing for a journey which I am about to commence in a few days to the Westward. I did not fail however to mention the purpose of your wishes to Mr. Arele<sup>32</sup> who was the bearer of your packet to me. He offering his services to dispose of your lottery tickets. I do not know where two or three hundred could be better placed in Alexandria, and if you will send him that number, he has promised me that his action for the sale of them shall not be wanting.

I thank you for your printed account of Washington College.<sup>33</sup> My best wishes will always attend it, and I am, etc.<sup>34</sup>

TO REUBEN HARVEY<sup>35</sup>

Mount Vernon, August 25, 1784.

Sir: Captain Stickney has presented me with your favor of the 25th. of May; together with the mess-beef and ox tongues, for which you will please to accept my best thanks.

I do not raise Tobacco on my Estate nor am I possessed of a pound at this time; otherwise I would with pleasure consign a few Hogsheds to your address, under full persuasion, that no person would do me more justice in the sale of them. Wheat or flour of the last year's produce, is either exported or consumed; that of the present year, is not yet got to market, what

<sup>31</sup> Maryland.

<sup>32</sup> John Ariss (Arele).

<sup>33</sup> At Chester, Md.

<sup>34</sup> From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>35</sup> Of Cork, Ireland.

prices they will bear in this Country is not for me to say: but tho' I do not walk in the Mercentile line, except in wheat (which I manufacture into flour), I should nevertheless, thank you for any information respecting the prices of these articles. With very great esteem etc.<sup>86</sup>

### TO THOMAS WALKER

Mount Vernon, August 25, 1784.

Dr. Sir: In April last I wrote you a letter, of which the enclosed is a copy, having received no reply to it, nor seen any meeting of the company<sup>87</sup> summoned in the papers, I am lead to suspect it never got to hand, for this reason, and because I think a meeting of the company indispensably necessary, I have transmitted a copy. I am upon the eve of a journey as far as the Kanhawa, from whence I may not be returned 'till sometime in Novr., but I would not wish to have the meeting delayed on that account. I am, etc.<sup>88</sup>

### \*TO JAMES MERCER

Mount Vernon, August 25, 1784.

Dear Sir: My Sister handed me your favor of the 18th. I thank you for the advice respecting the mode of conveying a title for the Lands I purchased at your Brother's Sale, and will pursue it; but necessity will oblige me to postpone the matter until I return from my Western jaunt; as, from Company and other circumstances, no leizure is left me to rummage for Papers before.

My letter to your Brother John Mercer would have informed you, that I apprehended there were omissions in the account I

<sup>86</sup> From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>87</sup> The Dismal Swamp Company.

transmitted, to my prejudice, as I had not been able to make any statemt. of my Books, or to assort my Papers (wch. by frequent removals to get them out of the enemy's way, were in sad disorder) since my return. I am much obliged to you for the Memm. taken from your journal, especially as I am in a way to be a considerable sufferer from my advances to obtain and Survey the Grant of 200,000 Acres of Land under Dinwiddies proclamation. Many of the Grantees never having paid me a Shilling.

The enclosed letter will give you every information in my power respecting Vanbraam, when you have read it please to return it to me, as it has received no acknowledgement yet. With very great esteem etc.<sup>38</sup>

### TO REVEREND DAVID GRIFFITH

Mount Vernon, August 29, 1784.

Dr. Sir: Colo. Fitzhugh informs me that the Academy at George town is upon a good establishment, that the Gentn. at the head of it is very capable, and clever in conducting of it, that the school is in high estimation, and that the terms are £25, for board, and £6.10, for teaching, Maryland Curry. Under these circumstances, let me pray you to inform Mr. Nourse<sup>39</sup> that I think it a desirable place to fix my Nephews<sup>40</sup> at. Colo. Fitzhugh adds that as Mr. Balch<sup>41</sup> is a particular friend of his, he will write to him on the subject as I should prefer having them boarded at his house to that of any other in town. I am, etc.<sup>42</sup>

<sup>38</sup> From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by William S. Miller, of Chicago, Ill.

<sup>39</sup> Joseph Nourse.

<sup>40</sup> George Steptoe Washington and Lawrence Augustine Washington, sons of the General's brother Samuel.

<sup>41</sup> Rev. Stephen Bloomer Balch.

<sup>42</sup> From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

## TO DOCTOR JEAN PIERRE LE MAYEUR

August 30, 1784.

Sir: Your letter of the 14th. accompanying the horse for little Washington<sup>43</sup> came safe. It is not in my power to describe his delight, which is the best proof of his thanks to you, he finds beauty in every part, and tho' shy at first, he begins now to ride with a degree of boldness in which will soon do honor to his horsemanship.

Mrs. Washington and all the family joins me in best wishes for you. Mrs. Lund Washington has added a daughter to her family. Miss Bassett is on a visit to her friends in the lower parts of the State, and I shall set off tomorrow on a tour to the Western Country. I shall always be happy to hear from you, and only wish for opportunities to make you amends for the attention you have shewn me. This letter will be handed to you by the Marqs. de la Fayette to whom I have mentioned you as one to whom I am under obligations. I am, etc.<sup>44</sup>

TO STEPHEN SAYRE<sup>45</sup>

Mount Vernon, September 1, 1784.

Sir: The round of company in which I have constantly been, and other circumstances since I had the honor to receive your favor of the 20th. ulto., induced me (indeed obliged me) to postpone from day to day, my answer, until the period has now arrived when I can do no more than give it a bare acknowledgment, being in the very act of setting out for the Western Country. I could not depart however without thanking you for the

<sup>43</sup>George Washington Parke Custis.

<sup>44</sup>From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>45</sup>Of Georgetown, Md.

sentiments you have conveyed respecting the mode for extending the inland navigation of Potomac.<sup>46</sup> I have not time to be explicit in giving you mine, it shall be the subject of conversation when I return; in the mean while it would give me pleasure to hear that you are disposed to submit your plan to the public. My wish is that the public should be possessed of every scheme that has a promising tendency, that [it] may adopt the best, after a just comparison of them. the period is arrived when something ought, and I presume will be undertaken. I am, etc.<sup>47</sup>

#### TO DANIEL MORGAN

September 4, 1784.<sup>48</sup>

Dr. Sir: Colo. Kennedy<sup>49</sup> has owed me £28, these many years. Enquiring yesterday where he lived, and into his circumstances, I was told that he had lately sold land or houses in Winchester, to you; and that it might be in your power to obtain the balance which appears upon the enclosed accot. due to me. If this should be the case, you would very much oblige me, as the money has been long due and I have always found it very difficult to get any from him. I am, etc.<sup>47</sup>

#### TO EDWARD SNICKERS

Berkeley, September 4, 1784.

Dr. Sir: Several persons have been with me this day to rent the Land I bought at the sale of Colo. George Mercer's Estate;

<sup>46</sup> Sayre's letter of August 20, proposing a scheme of financing the navigation of the Potomac, is in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>47</sup> From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

From Washington's "Diary," under date of Sept. 1, 1784, is the following: "Having dispatched my equipage about 9 O'clock A. M., consisting of 3 Servants and 6 horses, three of which carried my Baggage, I set out myself in company with Doctor James Craik."

<sup>48</sup> Washington was at Charles Washington's on this date.

<sup>49</sup> David Kennedy.

but I find it is essential that some one, or more of them, should engage for the whole rent; or, that I should delay renting it until the Land can be divided to the best advantage, so as that each Lot may have water, and a proportionate quantity of good Land. for these reasons I mean to avail myself of the kind offer you made me yesterday, of letting the two Lots (I bought as above) to the best advantage on my behalf.

Enclos'd is a plan of the Land wch. may be some guide for you. I have told Williams who is a liver on one of the lots, that I have no objection to his having an hundred acres or more, provided he will give as much as another, and the laying it off does not hurt the other part. As to the rents, I suppose the same which Mr. Burwell has, must govern, to wit, ten pounds and the Taxes, for each 100 acres, in other respects, my printed leases, one of which I enclose you, are to be shewn to the Tenants, and must be *your* rule and *their* terms; I do not mean to give Leases for lives; indeed I do not incline to exceed ten years: but if it shou'd be thought by the tenants, and this should be your opinion also, that ten years is too short to make the buildings and other improvements which are required by the printed copy<sup>80</sup> I send you, I would lengthen them to 14 years.

There is one thing I think it necessary to caution you upon: my object being to have my Lands improved by an industrious class of reputable people, I would not lease any of them to persons who do not mean to reside thereon; or to those who have lands adjoining, because in either case I should expect to have my land hard worked (perhaps totally ruined), without those aids or improvements which are to be expected from residents, whose convenience and comfort wou'd call for many things, which never would be furnished negro Quarters.

<sup>80</sup> A printed form of a lease which was used by Washington before the Revolution is in the *Washington Papers*.

After you have done the needful, and hear of my return home, I shall thank you for information respecting this business. I am, etc.<sup>81</sup>

### CERTIFICATE TO JAMES RUMSEY

Town of Bath, County of Berkeley in the  
State of of Virga., September 7, 1784.

I have seen the model of Mr. Rumsey's Boats constructed to work against stream; have examined the power upon which it acts; have been an eye witness to an actual experiment in running water of some rapidity; and do give it as my opinion (altho' I had little faith before) that he has discovered the Art of propelling Boats, by mechanism and small manual assistance, against rapid currents: that the discovery is of vast importance, may be of the greatest usefulness in our inland navigation, and, if it succeeds, of which I have no doubt, that the value of it is greatly enhanced by the simplicity of the works which when seen and explained to, might be executed by the most common Mechanics.<sup>81</sup>

### TO THOMAS FREEMAN

At the plantation of Mr. Gilbert Simpson,  
September 23, 1784.<sup>82</sup>

Sir: The situation of my affairs on the Western Waters in the State of Pennsylvania and Virginia, requiring a Superintendent; and you having been pleased to accept the appointment, I must beg leave to point out to you the performance of such duties as are *particularly* necessary.

<sup>81</sup> From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*. Washington left Bath September 8, and reached Simpson's September 13.

<sup>82</sup> Sparks prints this under 1785.



These will be to settle Tenants upon my Land; collect the rents which will arise therefrom, the Debts which will proceed from the sale of my co-partnership effects, such others as may be due to me from persons living as above; and in general, to act and do (where no particular instruction is given) in the same manner as you would for yourself under like circumstances endeavouring in all cases by fair and lawful means to promote my interest in this Country.

My Land on the Ohio and Great Kanhawa will be rented on the terms contained in a printed advertisement herewith given you; and as my disbursements will be great, I should prefer the last mentioned therein, to the other two, as the *immediate* profit arising therefrom is greatest. It is my *wish* also that each tract cou'd be rented on the same tenure, tho' I do not *bind* you thereto.

The remainder of my untenanted Lands in the tract commonly called and distinguished by the name of Washington's bottom, may be rented on the best terms you can obtain, until the close of the year one thousand seven hundred and ninety-four, and no longer. Less than what I am to get from the other Tenants on the same tract (after allowing them three years from the payment of rent) I should not incline to take: More I think ought to be had, and may be got.

My tract at the Great Meadows may be rented for the most you can get, for the term of ten years: there is a house on the premises, arable land in culture, and meadow inclosed; much of the latter may be reclaimed at a very moderate expence; which, and its being an excellent stand for an Innkeeper, must render it valuable.

All my rents are to be fixed in Specie Dollars (Spanish Coin); but may be discharged in any Gold or Silver coin of equivalent value: the Tenants in all cases are to pay the Land-tax,

which, to prevent disputes, is to be expressed in the Leases; and it will be a necessary part of your duty to visit them at proper and convenient periods, to see that the Covenants, to the performance of which they are bound, are strictly fulfilled and complied with.

Where acts of providence interfere to disable a Tenant, I would be lenient in the exaction of rent; but when the cases are otherwise, I will not be put off; because it is on these my own expenditures depend, and because an accumulation of undischarged rents is a real injury to the Tenant.

In laying off and dividing any of the Lands herein mentioned into Lots and tenements; particular care must be had that they are accurately surveyed, properly bounded and so distributed as to do equal justice to the several Grantees, and to the Grantor, that a few may not injure the whole, and spoil the market of them.

If you should not have offers in a short time for the hire of my Mill alone, or for the Mill with 150 acres of land adjoining; I think it adviseable in that case to let it on shares, to build a good and substantial Dam of Stone where the old one stood: and to erect a proper fore bay in place of the trunk which now conducts the water to the wheel, and, in a word, to put the House in proper repair. If you should be driven to this for want of a tenant; let public notice thereof be given, and the work let to the lowest bidder; the undertaker finding himself, and giving Bond and security for the performance of his contract. The charge of these things must be paid out of the first monies you receive for rent, or otherwise.

If I could get fifteen hundred pounds of the Mill and one hundred acres of Land most convenient thereto, I would let it go for that money.

As a compensation for the faithful performance of all these services, I agree to allow you five pr. Ct. for all the money which shall be collected and paid to me, or for my use; whether arising from rents, Bonds, Notes or open accounts; or from the sale of wheat or Flour taken for rents and converted into cash. Also twenty shillings Pennsa. Curcy. for every Tenant which shall be fixed on any of my Land, and who shall receive a Lease for the same on the terms mentioned: and the further sum of two dollars for every Lott which you shall lay off for such Tenants, together with such reasonable expences as may be incurred thereby.

Note: There are four stacks of Hay on the Plantation, my sole property; and half of the grain to be disposed of for, and on my behalf, as also a young Stallion whose covering, or final sale I am to be benefitted by.<sup>83</sup>

#### TO GOVERNOR BENJAMIN HARRISON

Mount Vernon, October 10, 1784.<sup>84</sup>

Dear Sir: Upon my return from the western Country a few days ago, I had the pleasure to receive your favor of the 17th. ulto. It has always been my intention to pay my respects to you before the chance of *another* early and hard winter should make a warm fireside too comfortable to be relinquished. And I shall feel an additional pleasure in offering this tribute of friendship and respect to you, by having the company of the Marqs. de la Fayette, when he shall have revisited this place from his Eastern tour; now every day to be expected.

I shall take the liberty now, my dear sir, to suggest a matter, which would (if I am not too shortsighted a politician) mark

<sup>83</sup> From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>84</sup> Washington reached Mount Vernon in the afternoon of October 4.

your administration as an important era in the Annals of this Country, if it should be recommended by you, and adopted by the Assembly.

It has been long my decided opinion that the shortest, easiest, and least expensive communication with the invaluable and extensive Country back of us, would be by one, or both of the rivers of this State which have their sources in the Apalachian mountains. Nor am I singular in this opinion. Evans, in his Map and Analysis of the middle Colonies which (considering the early period at which they were given to the public) are done with amazing exactness. And Hutchins since, in his topographical description of the Western Country, (a good part of which is from actual surveys), are decidedly of the same sentiments; as indeed are all others who have had opportunities, and have been at the pains to investigate and consider the subject.

But that this may not now stand as mere matter of opinion or assertion, unsupported by facts (such at least as the best maps now extant, compared with the oral testimony, which my opportunities in the course of the war have enabled me to obtain); I shall give you the different routs and distances from Detroit.<sup>68</sup> by which all the trade of the North Western parts of the United territory, must pass; unless the Spaniards, contrary to their present policy, should engage part of it; or the British should attempt to force nature by carrying the trade of the upper Lakes by the river Outawaies into Canada, which I scarcely think they will or could effect. Taking Detroit then (which is putting ourselves in as unfavourable a point of view as we can be well placed, because it is upon the line of the British territory) as a point by which, as I have already observed, all that part of the trade must come, it appears from the statement enclosed, that

<sup>68</sup> Washington inclosed, in this letter to Harrison, a copy of the table of distances from Detroit, which is entered in his diary under Oct. 4, 1784. Some of the running text of that day's diary entry is incorporated in this letter verbatim and in the general sense.

the tide waters of this State are nearer to it by 168 miles than that of the river St. Lawrence; or than that of the Hudson at Albany by 176 miles.

Maryland stands upon similar ground with Virginia. Pennsylvania altho' the Susquehanna is an unfriendly water, much impeded it is said with rocks and rapids, and nowhere communicating with those which lead to her capital; has it in contemplation to open a communication between Toby's Creek (which empties into the Alleghany river, 95 miles above Fort Pitt) and the west branch of Susquehanna; and to cut a canal between the waters of the latter, and the Schuylkill; the expence of which is easier to be conceived than estimated or described by me. A people however, who are possessed of the spirit of commerce, who see, and who will pursue their advantages, may achieve almost anything. In the mean time, under the uncertainty of these undertakings, they are smoothing the roads and paving the ways for the trade of that western World. That New York will do the same so soon as the British Garrisons are removed, which are at present, insurmountable obstacles in *their* way, no person who knows the temper, genius, and policy of those people as well as I do, can harbour the smallest doubt.

Thus much with respect to rival States; let me now take a short view of our own; and being aware of the objections which are in the way, I will enumerate, in order to contrast them with the advantages.

The first and principal one is, the *unfortunate Jealousy*, which ever has and it is to be feared ever will prevail, lest one part of the State should obtain an advantage over the other part (as if the benefits of trade were not diffusive and beneficial to all); then follow a train of difficulties viz: that our people are already heavily taxed; that we have no money; that the

advantages of this trade are remote that the most *direct* rout for it is thro' *other* States, over whom we have no controul; that the routs over which we have controul, are as distant as either of those which lead to Philadelphia, Albany or Montreal; That a sufficient spirit of commerce does not pervade the citizens of this commonwealth; that we are in fact doing for others, what they ought to do for themselves.

Without going into the investigation of a question, which has employed the pens of able politicians, namely, whether trade with Foreigners is an advantage or disadvantage to a country. This State as a part of the confederated States (all of whom have the spirit of it very strongly working within them) must adopt it, or submit to the evils arising therefrom without receiving its benefits; common policy therefore points clearly and strongly, to the propriety of our enjoying all the advantages which nature and our local situation afford us; and evinces clearly that unless this spirit could be totally eradicated in other States, as well as in this, and every man made to become either a cultivator of the Land, or a manufacturer of such articles as are prompted by necessity, such stimulus should be employed as will *force* this spirit; by shewing to our Countrymen the superior advantages we possess beyond others; and the importance of being upon a footing with our Neighbours.

If this is fair reasoning, it ought to follow as a consequence, that we should do our part towards opening the communication with the fur and peltry trade of the Lakes; and for the produce of the Country which lies within; and which will, so soon as matters are settled with the Indians, and the terms on which Congress means to dispose of the Land, and found to be favourable, are announced, settle faster than any other ever did, or any one would imagine. This then when considered in an interested point of view, is alone sufficient to

excite our endeavours; but in my opinion, there is a political consideration for so doing, which is of still greater importance.

I need not remark to you Sir, that the flanks and rear of the United States are possessed by other powers, and formidable ones too; nor how necessary it is to apply the cement of interest, to bind all parts of the Union together by indissoluble bonds, especially that part of it, which lies immediately west of us, with the middle States. For, what ties, let me ask, shou'd we have upon those people? How entirely unconnected with them shall we be, and what troubles may we not apprehend, if the Spaniards on their right, and Gt. Britain on their left, instead of throwing stumbling blocks in their way as they now do, should hold out lures for their trade and alliance. What, when they get strength, which will be sooner than most people conceive (from the emigration of foreigners who will have no particular predilection towards us, as well as from the removal of our own citizens) will be the consequence of their having formed close connexions with both, or either of those powers in a commercial way? It needs not, in my opinion, the gift of prophecy to foretell.

The Western settlers, (I speak now from my own observation) stand as it were upon a pivot; the touch of a feather, would turn them any way. They have look'd down the Mississippi, until the Spaniards (very impolitically I think, for themselves) threw difficulties in their way; and they looked that way for no other reason, than because they could glide gently down the stream; without considering perhaps, the fatigues of the voyage back again, and the time necessary to perform it in; and because they have no other means of coming to us but by a long Land transportation and unimproved roads. These causes have hitherto checked the industry of the present settlers; for except the demand for provisions, occasioned by the increase of

population, and a little flour which the necessities of Spaniards compel them to buy, they have no incitements to labour. But smooth the road once, and make easy the way for them, and then see what an influx of articles will be poured upon us; how amazingly our exports will be encreased by them, and how amply we shall be compensated for any trouble and expence we may encounter to effect it.

A combination of circumstances makes the present conjuncture more favourable for Virginia, than for any other State in the Union, to fix these matters. The jealous and untoward disposition of the Spaniards on one hand, and the private views of some individuals, coinciding with the general policy of the Court of Great Britain, on the other, to retain as long as possible the Posts of Detroit, Niagara, and Oswega &c. (which, tho' done under the letter of the Treaty, is certainly an infraction of the spirit of it, and injurious to the Union) may be improved to the greatest advantage by this State; if she would open the avenues to the trade of that Country, and embrace the present moment to establish it. It only wants a beginning; the Western Inhabitants wou'd do their part towards its execution. weak as they are, they would meet us at least half way, rather than be *driven* into the arms of, or be made dependant upon foreigners; which would, eventually, either bring on a separation of them from us, or a war between the United States and one or the other of those powers, most probably with the Spaniards.

The preliminary steps to the attainment of this great object, would be attended with very little expence, and might, at the same time that it served to attract the attention of the Western Country, and to convince the wavering Inhabitants thereof of our disposition to connect ourselves with them, and to facilitate their commerce with us, would be a mean of removing those jealousies which otherwise might take place among ourselves.



These, in my opinion are; to appoint Commissioners, who from their situation, integrity and abilities, can be under no suspicion of prejudice or predilection to one part more than to another. Let these Commissioners make an actual survey of James river and Potomack from tide-water to their respective sources. Note with great accuracy the kind of navigation, and the obstructions in it; the difficulty and expence attending the removal of these obstructions; the distances from place to place thro' the whole extent; and the nearest and best Portages between these waters and the Streams capable of improvement which run into the Ohio; traverse these in like manner to *their* junction with the Ohio, and with equal accuracy. The navigation of this river (i. e., the Ohio) being well known, they will have less to do in the examination of it; but nevertheless, let the courses and distances of it be taken to the mouth of the Muskingum, and up that river (notwithstanding it is in the ceded lands) to the carrying place with Cayahoga; down the Cayahoga to Lake Erie, and thence to Detroit. Let them do the same with big Bever creek, although part of it is in the State of Pennsylvania; and with the Scioto also. In a word, let the Waters East and West of the Ohio, which invite our notice by their proximity, and the ease with which Land transportation may be had between them and the Lakes on one side, and the rivers Potomac and James on the other, be explored, accurately delineated, and a correct and connected Map of the whole be presented to the public. These things being done, I shall be mistaken if prejudice does not yield to facts; jealousy to candour, and finally, that reason and nature thus aided, will dictate what is right and proper to be done.

In the mean while, if it should be thought that the lapse of time which is necessary to effect this work, may be attended with injurious consequences, could not there be a sum of money

granted towards opening *the best*, or if it should be deemed *more eligible*, two of the nearest communications, one to the Northward and another to the Southward, with the settlements to the westward? And an act be passed (if there should not appear a manifest disposition in the Assembly to make it a public undertaking) to incorporate, and encourage private Adventurers if any should associate and solicit the same, for the purpose of extending the navigation of Potomac or James river? And, in the former case, to request the concurrence of Maryland in the measure. It will appear from my statement of the different routs (and as far as my means of information have extended, I have done it with the utmost candour), that all the produce of the settlements about Fort Pitt can be brought to Alexandria by the Yohoghaney in 304 Miles; whereof only 31 is land transportation: And by the Monongahela and Cheat river in 300 miles; 20 only of which are land carriage. Whereas the common road from Fort Pitt to Philadelphia is 320 miles, all Land transportation; or 476 miles, if the Ohio, Toby's Creek, Susquehanna and Schuylkill are made use of for this purpose: how much of this is by land, I know not; but from the nature of the Country it must be very considerable. How much the interests and feelings of people thus circumstanced would be engaged to promote it, requires no illustration.

For my own part, I think it highly probable, that upon the strictest scrutiny (if the Falls of the Great Kanhawa can be made navigable, or a short portage be had there), it will be found of equal importance and convenience to improve the navigation of both the James and Potomac. The latter I am fully persuaded, affords the nearest communication with the Lakes; but James river may be more convenient for all the settlers below the mouth of the Gt. Kanhawa, and for some distance perhaps above, and west of it: for I have no expectation that any part of the trade *above* the falls of the Ohio will go down

that river and the Mississippi, much less that the returns will ever come up them; unless our want of foresight and good management is the occasion of it. Or upon trial, if it should be found that these rivers, from the beforementioned Falls, will admit the descent of Sea vessels; in which case, and the navigation of the former's becoming free, it is probable that both vessels and the cargoes will be carried to foreign markets and sold; but the returns for them will never in the natural course of things, ascend the long and rapid current of that river; which with the Ohio to the Falls, in their meanderings, is little if any short of 2000 miles. Upon the whole, the object, in my estimation is of vast commercial and political importance: in these lights I think posterity will consider it, and regret (if our conduct should give them cause) that the present favourable moment to secure so great a blessing for them, was neglected.

One thing more remains, which I had like to have forgot, and that is the supposed difficulty of obtaining a passage thro' the State of Pennsylvania. How an application to its Legislature would be relished, in the first instance, I will not undertake to decide; but of one thing I am almost certain, such an application would place that body in a very delicate situation. There is in the State of Pennsylvania at least 100,000 souls west of the Laurel hill, who are groaning under the inconveniences of a long land transportation; they are wishing, indeed they are looking for the improvement and extension of inland navigation; and if this cannot be made easy for them, to Philadelphia (at any rate it must be lengthy), they will seek a mart elsewhere; the consequence of which would be, that the State, tho' contrary to the policy and interests of its Sea-ports, must submit to the loss of so much of its trade, or hazard not only the trade but the loss of the Settlement also; for an opposition on the part of Government to the extension of water transportation, so consonant with the essential interests of a large body of

people, or any extraordinary impositions upon the exports or imports to, or from another State, would ultimately bring on a separation between its Eastern and Western Settlements; towards which, there is not wanting a disposition at this moment in that part of it, which is beyond the mountains. I consider Rumsey's discovery for working Boats against stream, by mechanical powers (principally) as not only a very fortunate invention for these States in general, but as one of those circumstances which have combined to render the present epocha favourable above all others for fixing, if we are disposed to avail ourselves of them, a large portion of the trade of the Western Country in the bosom of this State irrevocably.

Lengthy as this letter is, I intended to have written a fuller and more digested one, upon this important subject, but have met with so many interruptions since my return home, as almost to have precluded my writing at all. What I now give is crude; but if you are in sentiment with me, I have said enough; if there is not an accordance of opinion I have said too much and all I pray in the latter case is, that you will do me the justice to believe my motives are pure, however erroneous my judgment may be on this matter, and that I am with the most perfect esteem etc.<sup>66</sup>

<sup>66</sup>From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

Governor Harrison laid Washington's letter before the Virginia Assembly, and when Washington went to Richmond the middle of November to meet Lafayette the matter was discussed informally, and shortly thereafter a memorial from interested private citizens was sent to both the Virginia and Maryland Legislatures, praying an act of incorporation for a company. A committee of citizens consisted of Washington, Horatio Gates, and Thomas Blackburn was formed. From Richmond, Washington and Gates went to Annapolis, where Gates fell ill, and the entire matter rested on Washington. Through his exertions a bill was pushed through the Maryland Legislature, and sent to the Virginia Legislature, where a corresponding act was passed before the end of the session. The incorporation of the Potomac Navigation Co. thus became a fact. The Virginia Legislature also passed an act for incorporating the James River Co. The Virginia treasurer was directed to subscribe to 50 shares in the James River Co. and 100 shares in the Potomac River Co., which should be vested in George Washington and his heirs, the idea being to relieve Washington of the strain on his finances which the purchase of shares in these companies would involve. (See Madison's letter to Thomas Jefferson, Jan. 9, 1785, in *Hunt's Writings of Madison*, vol. 2, p. 102.)

## To THOMAS JOHNSON

Mount Vernon, October 15, 1784.

Dear Sir: On a supposition that you are now at Annapolis, the petition of the Potomack Company is enclosed to your care. A duplicate has been forwarded to the Assembly of this state; the fate of which I have not yet heard, but entertain no doubt of its favorable reception, as there are many auspicious proofs of liberality and justice already exhibited in the proceedings of the present session. I hope the same spirit will mark the proceedings of yours. The want of energy in the Federal government, the pulling of one State and party of States against another and the commotion amongst the Eastern people have sunk our national character much below par; and has brought our politics and credit to the brink of a precipice; a step or two farther must plunge up into a Sea of Troubles, perhaps anarchy and confusion. I trust that a proper sense of justice and unanimity in those States which have not drunk so deep of the cup of folly may yet retrieve our affairs. But no time is to be lost in essaying them. I have written to no gentlemen in your Assembly respecting the Potomack business but yourself. The justice of the cause and your management of it will insure success. With great regard and respect I am etc.<sup>87</sup>

## To MISS SIDNEY LEE

Mount Vernon, October 20, 1784.

Madam: The letter you did me the honor to write to me on the 23d. of May last, came to my hands in the moment of my departure for our Western territory. Knowing that I should be in the walks of Mr. White, and intending if I did not see him,

<sup>87</sup> From Corra Bacon-Foster's *Potomac Route to the West* (Washington: 1912), p. 44.

to write to him on the subject of your letter; I thought it best to decline giving you any trouble until one of those events should have happened.

Fortunately, I saw Mr. White, who informed me that altho' appearances were against him he had not been unmindful, either of your commands, or his own promises; for tho' it was to give a precise account of the trust reposed in him, he has nevertheless done it some little time previous to my application; and would leave nothing unattempted to settle the whole in the best manner he was able, and circumstances would admit. He marked the parts of your letter to me which required his attention, and promised me that he would address you on the subject of them, in a very little time. For the favourable wishes you have been pleased to bestow on this young Country, and for the flattering sentiments you have expressed for me, my grateful acknowledgments are due. I have the honor, etc.<sup>58</sup>

#### TO GEORGE PLATER

Mount Vernon, October 25, 1784.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 20th. did not reach me until yesterday afternoon. I am now set down to acknowledge it, and shall be happy, if from any information I can give, *you* should derive satisfaction, or the *public* benefit.

To describe the usefulness of water transportation, would be a mere waste of time; every man who has considered the difference of expence between it and land transportation, and the prodigious saving in the article of draft cattle, requires no arguments in proof of it: and to point out the advantages which the back inhabitants of Virginia and Maryland would derive from an extension of the inland navigation of the river Potomac,

<sup>58</sup> From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

even supposing our views did not extend beyond the Apalachian mountains, would be equally nugatory.

But I consider this business in a far more extensive point of view, and the more I have revolved the subject, the more important it appears to me; not only as it respects our commerce, but our political interests, and the well being, and strength of the union also.

It has been long my decided opinion . . .<sup>59</sup> harbour the smallest doubt, any more than they will of the difficulty of diverting trade, after connexions are once formed, and it has flowed for any length of time in one channel, to that of another.

I am not for *discouraging* the exertion of any State to draw the commerce of the Western Country to its sea ports, the more communications are opened to it, the closer we bind that rising world (for indeed it may be so called) to our interests, and the greater strength shall we acquire by it: those to whom nature affords the best communication, will, if they are wise and politic enjoy the greatest share of the trade. All I wou'd be understood to mean therefore is, that the gifts of providence may not be neglected or slighted: and these when considered on a commercial scale, are alone sufficient to excite one endeavours, but the political object of it, in my estimation is immense.

I need not remark to you Sir, that the flanks and rear . . .<sup>60</sup> or to be dependent upon foreigners; the consequence of which would be, a separation or a war. The way to avoid both, fortunately for us, is to do that which our most essential interest prompts us to, and which, at a very small comparative expence, is to be effected. I mean, to open a wide door to their commerce, and make the communication [as easy as possible for them to use it.

<sup>59</sup> The omitted portion is the same, verbatim, except in inconsequential verbal details, as Washington's letter to Gov. Benjamin Harrison, Oct. 10, 1784, *q. v.*

<sup>60</sup> The omitted portion is the same, verbatim, as in Washington's letter to Gov. Benjamin Harrison, Oct. 10, 1784, *q. v.*

This, in my judgment, would dry up the other sources, or if any part should flow down the Mississippi from the Falls of Ohio, by means of Vessels built for the sea, and sold with their Cargoes, the returns for them, I conceive, would go back this way.

I consider Rumseys discovery for working Boats against stream, by mechanical powers principally, as not only a very fortunate invention for these States in general, but as one of those circumstances which have combined to render the present epocha favorable above all others, for fixing, if we are disposed to avail ourselves of them, a large portion of the Peltry and Fur trade of the lakes, and the commerce within, irrecoverably, from these two states.

Lengthy as this letter is, I might have enlarged, but company prevents me. If there are any ideas in it which may be improved upon, I shall feel happy in having obeyed your commands. if there are not, your request must be my apology for having troubled you with these observations. My best respects, in which Mrs. Washington joins me, are tendered to Mrs. Plater and I am, etc.]<sup>41</sup>

#### TO REVEREND STEPHEN BLOOMER BALCH

October 30, 1784.

Sir: If you will *now*, or at any other time, furnish me with an account of the expences which have been incurred for schooling, boarding and clothing of my Nephews, I will transmit you the money. Such of the latter as are proper for them, I hope will be obtained on the best terms, as the cost of them shall be regularly paid.

<sup>41</sup>From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*. The portion in brackets is taken from a facsimile in a sales catalogue of 1929.



I think it would be very proper to have them taught the French language and such parts of the Mathematic's as will bring them acquainted with practical Surveying, which is useful to every man who has landed property. As they are fatherless and motherless children, I commit them to your benevolent care and protection. I am, etc.<sup>62</sup>

\*To JACOB READ

Mount Vernon, November 3, 1784.

Sir: The last Post gave me the honor of your letter of the 22d. Ulto. from New York and the little Tract which it enclosed. for both, you have my thanks.

My tour to the Westward, was less extensive than I intended. The Indians, it was said, were in too discontented a mood, for me to expose myself to their insults; as I had no object in contemplation which could justify any risk; my property in that Country having, previously, undergone every species of attack and diminution, that the nature of it would admit. To see the condition of my Lands which were nearest, and settled, and to dispose of those which were more remote, and unsettled, was all I had in view. The first I accomplished. The other I could not; and returned three weeks sooner than I expected.

You are pleased, my good Sir, to request that I would furnish you with such observations as I might have made in this tour, respecting "the Western Territory, Posts, or in general on Indian Affairs." with respect to the first and last, I<sup>63</sup> had abundant reason to convince me, that the predictions of a letter, which I wrote on the 7th. of Sept. 1783 to a Committee of Congress, (at their request) in part, are already verified,

<sup>62</sup> From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>63</sup> The "Letter Book" copy has "saw and heard enough while I was in that Country."

and that the rest, if the treaty which is now depending with the Indians, does not avert them, are upon the point of being so. And with respect to the Posts, two other letters of mine, the first on the 2d. of May last year, the other of the 8th. of Sept. following, addressed (by desire) to the Committee appointed to form a Peace establishment for the Union, contain my Sentiments on that Subject; fully, and clearly.

As these letters were addressed to Committees, at their own request, 'tis possible the members *only* of them, may have seen them; this must be my apology therefore for the reference, instead of a recital.

What may be the result of the Indian Treaty I pretend not to say; equally unacquainted am I with the Instructions, or Powers of the Commissioners; but if a large cession of territory is expected from them, a disappointment I think will ensue; for the Indians, I have been told, will not yield to the proposal. Nor can I see wherein lyes the advantages of it, if they would, at a first purchase, unless a *number* of States, tho' thinly Inhabited, would be more than a counterpoize in the *political* Scale, for progressive and compact settlements.

Such is the rage for speculating in, and forestalling of Lands on the No. West side of the Ohio, that scarce a valuable spot within any tolerable distance of it, is left without a claimant. Men in these times, talk with as much facility of fifty, a hundred, and even 500,000 Acres as a Gentleman formerly would do of 1000 acres. In defiance of the proclamation of Congress, they roam over the Country on the Indian side of the Ohio, mark out Lands, Survey, and even settle them. This gives great discontent to the Indians, and will unless measures are taken in time to prevent it, inevitably produce a war with the western Tribes.

To avoid which, there appears to me to be only these ways. Purchase, if possible, as much Land of them immediately back of us, as would make one or two States, according to the extent Congress design, or would wish to have them of; and which may be fully adequate to all our *present* purposes. Fix such a price upon the Lands, so purchased, as would not be too exorbitant and burthensome for real occupiers, but high enough to discourage monopolizers. Declare all steps, heretofore taken to procure Lands on the No. Wt. side of the Ohio, contrary to the prohibition of Congress, to be null and void. and that any person thereafter, who shall presume to mark, Survey, or settle Lands beyond the limits of the New States, and purchased Lands, shall not only be considered as outlaws, but fit subjects for Indian vengeance.

If these, or similar measures are adopted, I have no doubt of Congress's deriving a very considerable revenue from the Western territory; but Land, like other commodities, rise or fall in proportion to the quantity at market. consequently a higher price may be obtained by the Acre, for as much as will constitute one or two States, than can be had if ten States were offered for Sale at the sametime, besides extending the benefits, and deriving all the advantages of Law and Government from them at once; neither of which can be done in sparse Settlements, where nothing is thought of but scrambling for Land, which more than probably would involve confusion and bloodshed.

It is much to be regretted, that the slow determinations of Congress involve many evils. It is much easier to avoid mischiefs, than to apply remedies after they have happened. Had Congress paid an earlier attention to, or decided sooner on Indian Affairs, matters would have been in a more favorable

train than they now are, and if they are longer delayed, they will grow worse. Twelve months ago the Indians would have listened to propositions of *any kind* with more readiness than they will do now. The terms of Peace frightened them, and they were disgusted with Great Britn. for making such. Bribery, and every address which British art could devise have been practiced since to sooth them, to astrange them from us, and to secure their Trade.

To what other causes can be abscribed, their holding our Western Posts so long, after the ratification of the Treaty, contrary to the spirit, tho they do it under the letter of it. To remove their Garrisons and Stores is not the work of a week; for if report be true, they have only to shift them to the opposite side of the line. but it is now more than a year since I foretold what has happened; and I shall not be surprized if they leave us *no* Posts to occupy; for if they *mean* to surrender them *at all*, they may fix upon a *season*, or appoint a *short* day perhaps for the evacuation, which would preclude all relief, especially as I believe you are in no condition to possess them. To do it properly, requires time; ordnance, stores, Provisions, and other Articles, no more than Garrisons, are to be established in a moment; even where Boats and other conveniences (of which I dare say you are deficient) are at hand to transplant them. Supposing this to be the case, their will be an interregnum, during which the works will be left without guards, and being obnoxious to British policy, and Indian prejudices, will, by *accidental* fires, or Indian Drunkenness end in conflagration.

There is a matter which tho' it does not come before Congress wholly, is in my opinion, of great political importance, and ought to be attended to in time. It is to prevent the trade of the Western territory from settling in the hands, either of the Spaniards or British. if either of these happen, there is a

line of separation at once drawn between the Eastern and Western Country. The consequences of which may be fatal. To tell any man of information, how fast the latter is settling; how much more rapidly it will settle, by means of foreign emigrants, who can have no particular predilection for us; of the vast fertility of the Soil, and population the Country is competent to, would be futile. and equally nugatory to observe that it is by the cement of interest only, we can be held together. If then the trade of that Country should flow through the Mississippi or St. Lawrence. If the Inhabitants thereof should form commercial connexions, which lead, we know, to intercourse of other kinds, they would in a few years be as unconnected with us, indeed more so, than we are with South America; and wd. soon be alienated from us.

It may be asked how we are to prevent this? Happily for us the way is plain, and our *immediate* interests, as well as remote political advantages, points to it; whilst a combination of circumstances renders the present Epocha more favorable than any other, to accomplish them. Extend the inland navigation of the Eastern waters, communicate them as near as possible (by excellent Roads) with those which run to the westward. open these to the Ohio, and such others as extend from the Ohio towards Lake Erie; and we shall not only draw the produce of the western Settlers, but the Fur and peltry trade of the lakes also, to our Ports (being the nearest, and easiest of transportation) to the amazing encrease of our Exports, while we bind those people to us by a chain which never can be broken.

This is no Utopean Scheme, it can be demonstrated as fully as facts can ascertain any thing, that not only the produce of the Ohio and its waters, at least to the falls, but those of the lakes also, as far even as that of the Wood,\* may be brought to the

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\*Lake of the Woods.

Sea Ports in the United States by routs shorter, easier, and less expensive than they can be carried to Montreal or New Orleans; if we would be at a little trouble and expence to open them. I will acknowledge that the most essential part of this business comes more properly before individual States than the Union; but there is one part of it, which lyes altogether with the latter and that is, to have actual Surveys of the Western territory; more especially of the Rivers which empty into the Ohio on the North west side thereof, which have the easiest and best communications with Lake Erie. Reporting the nature of these waters; the practicability of their navigation, and expence in opening of them. This, in my opinion, is an important business, and admits of no delay; it would shew the value of these Lands more clearly; it would attract the attention of the Settlers and the Traders; it would give the Ton, and fix ideas that at present are as floating as chaos.

You see Sir I have obeyed your commands; my sentiments are delivered with freedom; the worst construction they will admit of, is, that they are errors of judgment; for sure I am, I have no private views that can be promoted by the adoption of them. Mrs. Washington thanks you for your polite remembrance of her, and joins me in best respects. I am etc.<sup>68</sup>

### TO BATTAILE MUSE

Mount Vernon, November 3, 1784.

Sir: Your letter of the 12th. of Septemr. only came to my hands a few days ago. You can best tell how far the collection of my rents in Berkeley, Frederick, Fauquier and Loudoun, would interfere with the business you have to execute for Colo. Fairfax. If it can be made to comport with his, and the Gentle-

<sup>68</sup>From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by George A. Ball, of Muncie, Ind.

man who employed you to look after it would signify as much I should be very willing to commit my smaller matters to your care: and would then, as soon as it should be in my power, transmit you a rental of the sums (as far as I can ascertain them) which are due. At any rate, as Mr. Whiting is about to quit the Tenement he holds of me; as he is a good deal in arrears of rent; as common fame not only denotes him a bad manager, but one who is very much involved; which may occasion me a good deal of trouble if not loss, if his effects are suffered to be removed before the sum he owes me is secured: I have to request that you will cause distress to be made before this event takes place, unless he will give indubitable security for the payment of it in six months. You will readily perceive by this, that my meaning on the one hand is, not to lose the hold which the law has given me of his property on the premises, unless he will secure me in some other manner. And on the other hand not to distress him beyond what prudence and that security which I have a right to may absolutely require.

Enclosed you have a statemt. of the Accots. with him. On the 25th. day of December next another rent will become due; the security of which is equally necessary with that which is now due. I am, etc.<sup>66</sup>

#### TO REVEREND WILLIAM GORDON

Mount Vernon, November 3, 1784.

Dear Sir: The last post brought me your favor of the 18th. ulto., and gave me the pleasure to hear you were well.

My return from our Western territory was sooner than I expected when I left home. The Indians from accounts were in too discontented a mood to have rendered an interview with

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<sup>66</sup>From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

them agreeable, if chance should have thrown us together. I therefore returned from the Neighbourhood of Fort Pitt, where I found part of my property (Lands) in possession of others, and myself under the necessity of bringing ejectments for the recovery of it. To that which was more remote I did not go, for the reason above. Another year, and I may find it in like predicament. But as the *Land* cannot be removed, I did not think any attempts which might be made in the meanwhile, sufficient inducement to expose myself to the insults of Savages; and having no other objects in view, I returned three weeks sooner than I expected when I set out on the tour.

In my absence I had a very sickly family, but no deaths. Mrs. Washington has been very unwell, Miss Custis very ill, and your friend *Tub*<sup>67</sup> a good deal reduced by a diarrhea, he has got perfectly well, and is as fat and saucy as ever. Mrs. Washington is pretty well recovered, but Miss Custis remains in a puny state. the family unite in best wishes for you, and I am, etc.<sup>68</sup>

### TO ROBERT ANDERSON

Mount Vernon, November 3, 1784.

Sir: Your letter of the 15th. of Octor. is at hand, and is the first I have ever received from you. Persons as well acquainted with Husbandry, in its various branches, as you profess yourself to be, and have credentials of, must no doubt be an acquisition to any Country, and meet with encouragement in this. I should be glad to employ a Man who has a perfect knowledge of Agriculture, skilled in the rotation of crops; and who understands feeding horses, Cattle, sheep &c. But before I would be under any legal, or honorary engagement, or put you to the

<sup>67</sup> George Washington Parke Custis(?)

<sup>68</sup> From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.



trouble or expence of coming this way, I should be glad to know precisely your terms, wages &c. To which I wou'd give you an answer by the return of the Post. It may not be amiss to inform you, that it is a head or Director only I want; hands I could furnish from my own Estate to occupy any farm I have unengaged at present. I am, etc.<sup>69</sup>

### TO CLEMENT BIDDLE

Mount Vernon, November 3, 1784.

Dear Sir: I have not yet received a statement of my Account with you. It would give me pleasure to have it at full length, and soon; I wish you would add to it, 100 lbs. of fresh and good (red) Clover seed, to be sent by the first vessel to Alexandria; as I should be to receive it before Ice may impede the navigation of this river or the Delaware.

I requested the favor of Mr. Boudinot to send me as much of the Orchard grass seed, as would sow ten acres, and if no opportunity should offer immediately from New York to Alexandria, to address it to your care. should the latter be the case, I pray you to forward it by the first conveyance after its arrival.

Last Spring you were unable to get me English grass seed; but if it is to be had now, it would be very convenient for me to receive as much as would sow five acres, say 50 lbs. The grass I mean goes under so many different names, that this may be a reason why you were unsuccessful: by some it is call'd English grass, by others Goose grass, again Spear grass. In short, it is that kind of grass which affords the best turf for walks and Lawns, and is the purpose for which I want it. Could these seeds be had from the Farms, or of the growth of this Country, there would be more certainty of its coming up. Imported

<sup>69</sup>From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

Seeds (even where no pranks are played with it) often gets heated in the Ship, and the vegetation thereby destroyed.

At what prices could good Ticklenburg be had in Philadelphia, Nails, paint, and in short course goods? Are goods in general cheap or dear with you? I am, etc.<sup>70</sup>

### TO ELIAS BOUDINOT

Mount Vernon, November 3, 1784.

Dr. Sir: Mrs. Washington and I have heard with great pleasure of Miss Boudinot's restoration to health, and change of condition; on both which events we join in sincere compliments of congratulations to you, Mrs. Boudinot and the young couple.

Will you permit me my good Sir, to request the favor of you (if it should not be attended with inconvenience) to purchase as much of the Orchard grass seed for me, as will sow about ten acres of Land, and forward it by any Vessel which may be coming from New York to Alexandria, or if opportunities from thence are rare, to Colo. Biddle in Philadelphia, with a request to forward it to me without delay, that I may be certain of getting it for early seeding in the Spring. You would add to the favor if the Seed should be accompanied by the direction of a good farmer, with respect to the quantity which should be given to an Acre, and the manner of sowing it. I will remit the price of the Seed with thanks, so soon as you shall inform me of the cost of it.

You were so obliging some years ago as to furnish me with a little of this seed, but like most other things which belonged to me it was neglected. I want to try it now under my own management. With very great esteem and regard, I am, etc.<sup>70</sup>

<sup>70</sup> From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

\* TO THE VIRGINIA HOUSE OF DELEGATES

[Richmond, November 15, 1784.]<sup>71</sup>

Gentlemen: My sensibility is deeply affected by this distinguished mark of the affectionate regard of your honorable House.<sup>72</sup> I lament upon this occasion that my powers of utterance will not do justice to my feelings; and shall rely upon your indulgent report to supply the defect; at the same time I pray you to present for me the strongest assurances of unalterable affection and gratitude for this last pleasing and flattering attention of my Country.

\* TO THE MAYOR, RECORDER, ALDERMEN  
AND COMMON COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF RICHMOND

[November 15, 1784.]

Gentlemen: I derive great honor from your congratulatory address; the language of which, is too flattering not to have excited my utmost gratitude.

To the Smiles of Heaven, to a virtuous and gallant Army, and to the exertions of my fellow Citizens of the Union, (not to superior talents of mine) are to be ascribed the blessings of that liberty, Independence and peace, of which we are now in the enjoyment. Whilst these are afforded us, and while the advantages of commerce are not only offered but are soliciting our acceptance, it must be our own fault indeed if we do not make them productive of a rich and plenteous harvest, and of

<sup>71</sup> Washington reached Richmond on November 14 (Sunday). Lafayette arrived there November 18.

<sup>72</sup> The House had appointed a committee, consisting of Patrick Henry, James Madison, Joseph Jones, C. H. Harrison, and Edward Carrington, to wait on the General with the complimentary resolve of the House, which is in the *Washington Papers*, under date of Nov. 15, 1784.

that National honor and glory, which should be characteristic of a young, and rising Empire.

That this growing City may enjoy all the benefits which are to be derived from them, in the fullest extent; that it may improve such as nature has bestowed, and that it may soon be ranked among the first in the Union for population, commerce and wealth is my sincere and fervent wish.

\*To HENRY LEE

Mount Vernon, Wednesday Afternoon,  
November 24, 1784.

Dr. Sir: Accompanied by the Marquis de la Fayette, Captn. Grancha<sup>73</sup> and the Chevr. Caraman I am just arrived at this place. The Marquis joins me in wishes to see you; come then to Dinner tomorrow, or as soon as you can make it convenient.

I have heard since I came home, indeed at Dumfries, of some dispatches which went down for me from a Commee; but none have yet got to hand. I should be glad to receive duplicates. it may be necessary. I am etc.

PS. Come prepared to stay a few days. If Mr. Fendal<sup>74</sup> is disengaged I should be glad if he would accompany you.

[H.L.]

To MARCHIONESS DE LAFAYETTE

Mount Vernon, November 25, 1784.

Madam: If my expression was equal to my sensibility, I should in more elegant language than I am Master of, declare to you my sense of the obligation I am under for the letter you did me the honor to write me by the Marqs. de la Fayette, and

<sup>73</sup>Capt. Guillaume Jacques Constant Liberge de Granchain de Sémerville, of the French Navy.

<sup>74</sup>Philip Fendall.

thanks for this flattering instance of your regard. The pleasure I received in once more embracing my friend could only have been encreased by your presence, and that opportunity I should thereby have had of paying, in my own house, the homage of my respectful attachment to his better half. I have obtained a promise which the Marqs. has ratified to Mrs. Washington, that he will use his influence to bring you with him to this Country, whenever he shall visit it again. When the weight of so powerful an advocate is on our side, will you My Dr. Marchioness deny us the pleasure of accompanying him to the shores of Columbia? In offering our mite, we can only assure you that endeavours shall not be wanting on our part to make this new world as agreable to you as rural scenes and peaceful retirement are competent to. The Marquis returns to you with all the warmth and ardour of a newly inspired lover. We restore him to you in good health, crowned with wreaths of love and respect from every part of the Union. That his meeting with you, his family and friends, may be propitious, and as happy as your wishes can make it: that you may long live together revered and beloved, and that you may transmit to a numerous progeny the virtue which you both possess, is consonant with the vow and fervent wish of your devoted and most respectful Humble Servant.<sup>75</sup>

#### TO MADEMOISELLE DE LAFAYETTE

November 25, 1784.

Permit me to thank you my dear little correspondent for the favor of her letter of the 18th. of June last, and to impress her with the idea of the pleasure I shall derive in a continuation of them. Her papa is restored to her with all the good health, paternal affection and honors her tender heart could wish.

<sup>75</sup> From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

He will carry a kiss to her from me, (which might be more agreeable from a pretty boy) and give her assurances of the affectionate regard with which I have the pleasure of being her well wisher.<sup>76</sup>

#### TO DOCTOR FRIEDRICH ANTON MESMER

Mount Vernon, November 25, 1784.

Sir: The Marqs. de la Fayette did me the honor of presenting to me your favor of the 16th. of June;<sup>77</sup> and of entering into some explanation of the powers of Magnetism, the discovery of which, if it should prove as extensively beneficial as it is said, must be fortunate indeed for Mankind, and redound very highly to the honor of that genius to whom it owes its birth. For the confidence reposed in me by the Society which you have formed for the purpose of diffusing and deriving from it, all the advantages expected; and for your favourable sentiments of me, I pray you to receive my gratitude, and the assurances of the respect and esteem with which I have the honor, etc.<sup>78</sup>

#### TO DAVID HUMPHREYS

Mount Vernon, November 25, 1784.

My Dr. Humphrys: I have had the pleasure to receive two Letters from you since your arrival in France, and cannot let the Marqs. de la Fayette depart without an acknowledgment of them, altho' his doing it is sudden, and as you may well suppose with company; under these circumstances I am not well in a condition to do it.

When I am a little more at leisure (if that ever should be) I will give you all the occurrences of this quarter that have come

<sup>76</sup>From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>77</sup>Mesmer's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

under my view and recollection: at present I will content myself with informing you that we are all very well, and join very sincerely in every wish for your health, welfare and every happiness you yourself can desire. I am, etc.<sup>78</sup>

### TO VICOMTE DE LA TOUCHE-TRÉVILLE

Mount Vernon, November 25, 1784.

Sir: The Marqs. de la Fayette presented me with the honor of your favor of the 15th. of June. Let me beseech you to be persuaded sir, that I derived great pleasure from its contents, and shall think it a very happy circumstance if fortune should ever place it in my power to facilitate your views of settlement in a country which your personal services have contributed to free from those shackles which were forging for its bondage. The acquisition of such a Citizen cannot be more pleasing, than honorable to America; and in whatever I can be useful towards the fulfilment of your wishes, you have only to command my best services. I have the honor, etc.<sup>79</sup>

### TO JOSEPH MANDRILLON<sup>79</sup>

Mount Vernon, November 25, 1784.

Sir: I have had the honor to receive your favor of the 11th. of June, accompanied with your remarks and enquiries concerning America. The honorable mention which you make of me in both is far above my deserts, and to be ascribed more to your politeness than to my merits: on my gratitude however you have a powerful claim; at the same time that it becomes matter of regret to me, that my want of knowledge in the

<sup>78</sup> From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>79</sup> A French merchant of Amsterdam. He had published in that city in 1784 *Le Spectateur Americain* and *Recherches Philosophiques sur la Découverte de l'Amerique*.

French language will not allow me to become well acquainted with all the beauties of your Spectator. I must pray you to do me the justice to believe that I am, etc.<sup>80</sup>

\* To COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU

Mount Vernon, November 25, 1784.

My dear Count: Your favor of the 9th. of Sept., enclosing the copy of a letter from the Marqs. de Segar,<sup>81</sup> is this moment received. The repeated instances of the honor, conferred on the Society of the Cincinnati by His most Christn. Majesty's indulgent recognition of it, is highly flattering to the Order; and merits the most grateful acknowledgements of all its Members.

The pleasure with which you say Prince Henry of Prussia viewed my Picture at your house, is very flattering. I can never too often assure you of my Affectionate regard, and of the respectful attachment with which I have the honor etc.<sup>82</sup>

\* To GOVERNOR GEORGE CLINTON

Mount Vernon, November 25, 1784.

Dear Sir: A few days ago I had the pleasure to receive your favor of the 12th Instt. Altho' I felt pain from your silence, I should have imputed it to any cause rather than a diminution of friendship. The warmth of which I feel too sensibly *for you*, to harbour a suspicion of the want of it *in* you, without being

<sup>80</sup>From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

On November 25 Washington wrote briefly to Monsieur Maithe, Avocat at the Parliament at Toulouse, Languedoc, France, thanking him for a pamphlet. A copy of this is in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>81</sup>Rochambeau's letter and a copy of Segur's letter of Aug. 28, 1784, are in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>82</sup>From the original in the *Rochambeau Papers* in the Library of Congress.

On November 25 Washington wrote briefly to a Monsieur De Venie, referring him to the Society of the Cincinnati in France for a decision as to his claim to be received into the Society. A copy of this letter is in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.



conscious of having given cause for the change. having ever flattered myself that our regards were reciprocal.

It gives me great pleasure to learn from yourself, that the State over which you preside is tranquil. Would to God it may ever remain so, and that all others would follow the example. Internal dissensions, and jarrings with our Neighbours, are not only productive of mischievous consequences, as it respects ourselves, but has a tendency to lessen our national character, and importance in the eyes of European powers. If anything can, this will expose us to their intriguing politics, and may shake the Union.

It has been my avowed and uniform opinion, ever since the interview between Baron de Steuben and Genl. Haldimand last year, that whilst a pretext could be found, the Western Posts would be withheld from us; and I do not think I should hazard a false prediction, were I to add, that they never will come into our hands in the condition they now are. When pretexts can no longer put on a decent garb, a Season may be named for the surrender, in which it would be impracticable for us to plant a garrison, or transport provisions and stores. an interregnum would then follow, during which the Indians by innuendos, [*sic*] may reduce them to ashes. I wish it may be otherwise, but these are my opinions.

I am sorry we have been disappointed in our expectation of the Mineral Spring at Saratoga. and of the purchase of that part of the Oeriskeny tract on which Fort Schuyler stands; but I am glad you have succeeded upon such advantageous terms in the purchase of 6,000 acres adjoining; for you certainly have obtained it amazingly cheap. Be so good, my dear Sir, along with the other information you have kindly promised me, to signify whether you have any prospects of borrowing (on interest) money for the payment of my moiety (as was talked of between us) or whether I am to provide it in any other manner;

that I may take measures accordingly. The time is also come for the payment of interest due on the old score, and I shall do it with as little delay as possible.

It gave great pain to Mrs. Washington and myself, to hear of Mrs. Clintons indisposition, and of the sickness and accidents with which your little flock have been afflicted. Our best, and sincere wishes are offered for them, and we hope, shortly, to hear of their perfect restoration; for we have a most affectionate regard for them all, and feel ourselves interested in everything which concerns them.

Give me leave now, my dear Sir, to thank you for your recollection, and attention to the small articles which I begged you to provide for me. Whenever you conceive the season is proper, and as opportunity offers, I shall hope to receive the Balsam trees; or any others which you may think curious, and exoticks with us; as I am endeavouring to improve the grounds about my house in this way. If perchance the Sloop Pilgrim is not yet Sailed from your Port, you would add to the favor you mean to confer on me, by causing a number of Grape Vines sent me by an Uncle of the Chevr. de la Luzernes,—brought over by Captn. Williams, [*sic*] and deposited by him in the Garden of a Mr. Beakman near the City, to be forwarded by that Vessel. They consist of a variety of the most valuable eating grapes of France; a list of the kinds, and distinction of them, no doubt accompanied the Sets. I pray you to take some of each sort for your own use, and request Mr. Beakman to do the same, with my thanks for his care of them.

I thank you for the interest you take in the welfare of my Nephew,<sup>83</sup> and for his letter which you were so obliging as to send me. Poor young fellow! his pursuit after health is, I fear, altogether fruitless. Ever since the month of May he has been

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<sup>83</sup> George Augustine Washington.

traversing the Seas, from Island to Island, to very little purpose. When he last wrote he was about to Sail for Charleston, where he proposed to spend the Winter; and if no salutary effects resulted from it, to come hither and resign himself, to his fate, in the Spring. Mrs. Washington unites with me in every kind and affectionate regard for you, Mrs. Clinton and family, and with sentiments of warmest friendship, etc.

PS. Tell Walker that Mrs. Washington and I not only congratulate him on his matrimonial connexion, but wish him all the joy and comfort which is to be derived from a good wife.

[N. Y. H. S.]

### TO WILLIAM WASHINGTON

Mount Vernon, November 25, 1784.

Dear Sir: From a letter dated the 9th. of last month from my Nephew Geo: Augt. Washington then at Burmuda, I have reason to believe he is ere this at Charleston. The poor fellow is travelling about in pursuit of health, which, it is to be feared he will never obtain. His determination at the time he wrote to me was, to procure a passage, which he thought might happen in a fortnight or three weeks, for Turks Island, thence to your City, where he proposed to stay during the inclemency of the Winter.

He writes to me for some winter cloaths which he left here, but as I know of no direct or safe conveyance, and as I presume his finances may be some what reduced, you would oblige me by procuring him a credit for such sums as he may want for this and other purposes, and I will see that due payment is made. I beg leave to recommend him to your patronage and kind offices whilst he remains in So. Carolina, he is a very amiable young man, and one for whom I have an entire affection and regard.

I saw your Brother, well, the other day at Richmond. It is said he is on the point of Matrimony; but of this and other

matters of family concern, I presume you receive regular and better advice than I can give. tho' unknown I beg leave to offer my best respects to your Lady. Mrs. Washington joins me in it, and in compliments. to yourself. I am, etc.<sup>84</sup>

TO CHEVALIER DE COËTNEMPREN KERSAINT<sup>85</sup>

Mount Vernon, November 25, 1784.

Sir: I regret exceedingly that my absence from home should have happened at a time when you intended me the honor of a visit. I shall consider the tour I made, on that account, as unfortunate. If the orders of your Prince, or a desire to see these shores again, should ever bring you into this Country, I pray you to be assured of the pleasure I should feel the honor of a visit from you. For the favourable sentiments you are pleased to express for me, you have a claim upon my gratitude. With much respect I have the honor, etc.<sup>84</sup>

\*TO JAMES MADISON OR, IN HIS ABSENCE,  
JOSEPH JONES

Mount Vernon, November 28, 1784.

Gentlemen: After the several conversations we have had on the subject of inland navigation; and the benefits which would, probably, be derived from a commercial intercourse with the Western territory; I shall make no apology for giving you the trouble of the enclosed.

It is matter of regret to me, however, that I cannot accompany them with some explanations and observations. It was intended these Papers should have met me at Richmond. They missed

<sup>84</sup> From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

<sup>85</sup> Armand Guy Simon de Coëtnempren Kersaint, captain, French Navy, who visited America with a French squadron. He wrote to Washington (September 12) from York, in the Chesapeake. His letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

me on the road thither. travelled back to Baltimore, returned, and were put into my hands at the moment I was setting off for Annapolis; to which place I mean to accompany the Marqs. de la Fayette on his return to New York where he expects to embark, about the middle of next month, for France.

I could not think of with-holding these Papers until my return, as I shall probably accompany the Marquis from Annapolis to Baltimore. Therefore, in the order I receive, I send them to you. Your own judgments in this business will be the best guide. but in one word, it should seem to me, that if the public cannot take it up with efficient funds, and without those delays which might be involved by a limping conduct, it had better be placed in the hands of a corporate Company. What encouragements, and what powers, to give this Company, deserves all that consideration which I perswade myself you, Gentlemen, will bestow.

The Maryland Assembly is now sitting. If I should return in time, I will have the honor of writing to you again on this subject; in the meanwhile, if your leizure will permit, I should be glad to know your Sentimts. on, and what will be the issue of, this business. With very sincere esteem etc.

PS. As your Assembly are upon a Militia Law, I send you the thoughts of the Baron de Steuben which I found here upon my return from Richmond.<sup>86</sup>

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<sup>86</sup>From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by William Randolph Hearst, of New York City.

In the Minnesota Historical Society is an undated paper, entirely in the writing of Washington and headed by him, "Obs'ns on the Acts for opening the Navigation of the Potomac and James Rivers" which apparently should be dated November, 1784, or approximately near that month. On this same document Washington has entered a list of toll rates. There are 13 short, numbered comments which need to be compared with the text of the acts in *Hening's Statutes*, vol. xi, to make them even partially intelligible. In the same society is also "An Estimate of the Expence in removing the obstruction of the Navigation of James River" in the writing of Washington. Both of these documents are printed in *The American Historical Review*, vol. 28, pp. 518 and 710. The petition of the Potomac Company, signed by Washington as president. undated, is also printed, *ibid.*, p. 715. Photostats of all these are in the Library of Congress.

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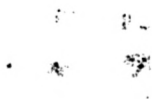
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